SKOTTIE YOUNG

I HATE FAIRYLAND™

BOOK ONE

"It was a nightmare. Nothing but the green of her hair . . . and the blood of my people."

- Thaddeus J. Star, RIP

I HATE FAIRYLAND™

BOOK ONE

Written and Drawn by

SKOTTIE YOUNG

Coloring by

JEAN-FRANCOIS BEAULIEU

Lettering & Design by

NATE PIEKOS OF BLAMBOT®

Edited by

KENT WAGENSCHUTZ

Book One Design by

VINCENT KUKUA

Logo Design by

RIAN HUGHES

Hardcover Design by

SKOTTIE YOUNG VINCENT KUKUA
NATE PIEKOS GUSTAVO DUARTE

REGULAR EDITION ISBN: 978-1-5343-0330-0
DCBS EXCLUSIVE EDITION ISBN: 978-1-5343-0618-9
SIGNED & NUMBERED EDITION ISBN: 978-1-5343-0639-4

I HATE FAIRYLAND, BOOK ONE HC. First Printing. December 2017. Published by Image Comics, Inc. Office of publication: 2701 NW Vaughn St., Suite 780, Portland, OR 97210.

Copyright © 2017 Skottie Young. All rights reserved. Contains material originally published in single magazine form as I HATE FAIRYLAND #1-10. "I HATE FAIRYLAND," its logos, and the likenesses of all characters herein are trademarks of Skottie Young, unless otherwise noted. "Image" and the Image Comics logos are registered trademarks of Image Comics, Inc. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means (except for short excerpts for journalistic or review purposes), without the express written permission of Skottie Young, or Image Comics, Inc. All names, characters, events, and locales in this publication are entirely fictional. Any resemblance to actual persons (living or dead), events, or places, without satiric intent, is coincidental. Digital Edition.

For international rights, contact: foreignlicensing@imagecomics.com.

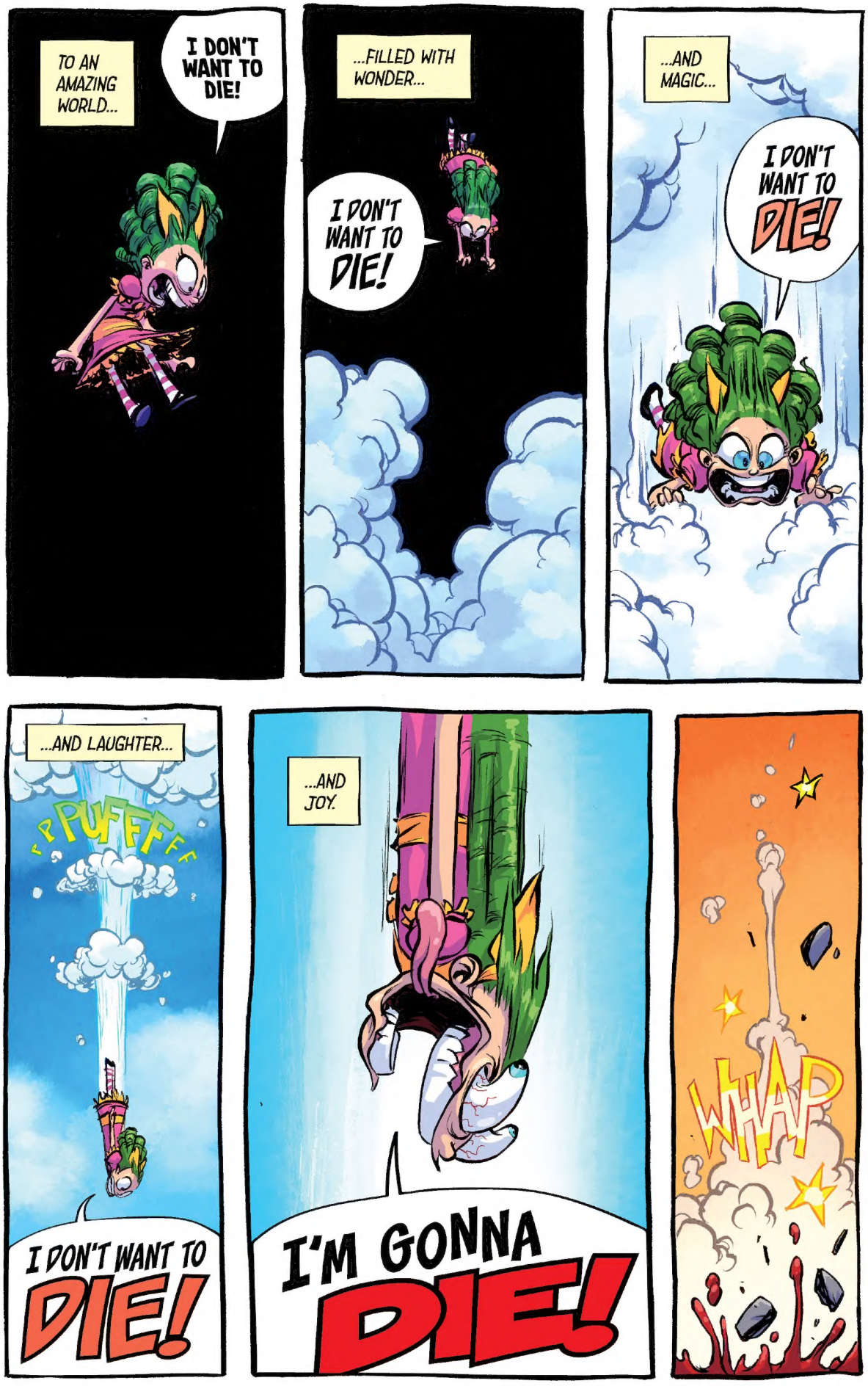
IMAGE COMICS, INC.
Robert Kirkman — Chief Operating Officer
Erik Larsen — Chief Financial Officer
Todd McFarlane — President
Marc Silvestri — Chief Executive Officer
Jim Valentino — Vice President
Eric Stephenson — Publisher
Corey Murphy — Director of Sales
Jeff Boison — Director of Publishing Planning & Book Trade Sales
Chris Ross — Director of Digital Sales
Jeff Stang — Director of Specialty Sales
Kat Salazar — Director of PR & Marketing
Branwyn Bigglestone — Controller
Kali Dugan — Senior Accounting Manager
Sue Korpela — Accounting & HR Manager
Drew Gill — Art Director
Heather Doornink — Production Director
Leigh Thomas — Print Manager
Tricia Ramos — Traffic Manager
Briah Skelly — Publicist

IMAGECOMICS.COM
Aly Hoffman — Events & Conventions Coordinator
Sasha Head — Sales & Marketing Production Designer
David Brothers — Branding Manager
Melissa Gifford — Content Manager
Drew Fitzgerald — Publicity Assistant
Vincent Kukua — Production Artist
Erika Schnatz — Production Artist
Ryan Brewer — Production Artist
Shanna Matuszak — Production Artist
Carey Hall — Production Artist
Esther Kim — Direct Market Sales Representative
Emilio Bautista — Digital Sales Representative
Leanna Caunter — Accounting Analyst
Chloe Ramos-Peterson — Library Market Sales Representative
Marla Eizik — Administrative Assistant

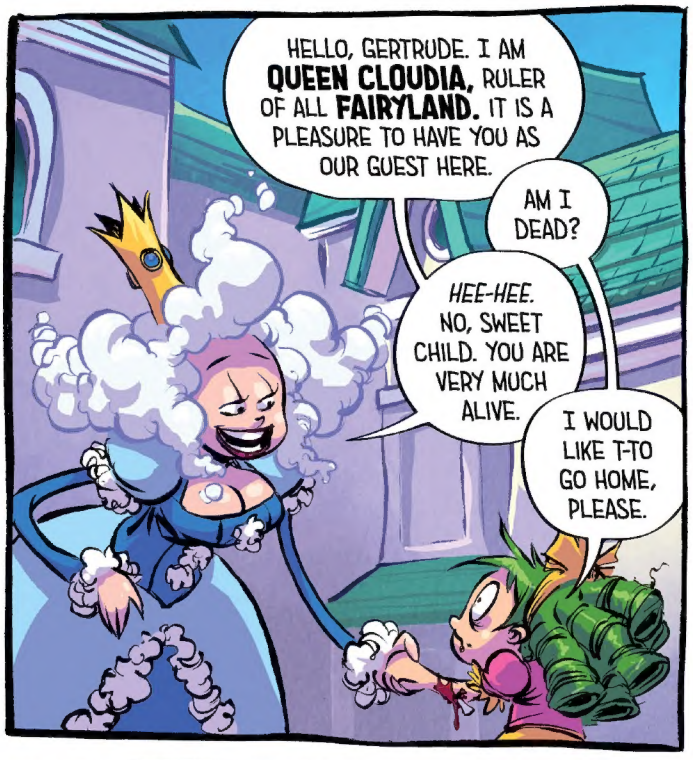
ONE

ONCE UPON A TIME, THERE WAS A GIRL NAMED GERTRUDE WHO WISHED SHE COULD BE TAKEN AWAY TO AN AMAZING WORLD FILLED WITH WONDER, AND MAGIC, AND LAUGHTER, AND JOY.
LUCKY FOR LITTLE GERTRUDE, SOME WISHES COME TRUE.
HELLLLLP!
A GRAND ADVENTURE AWAITED HER.
MOM! DAD! SOMEONE!
THE FLOOR IS EATING ME!

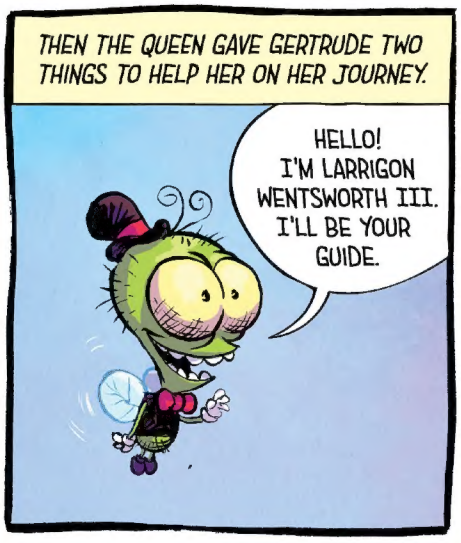
ALL SHE HAD TO DO...
DON'T LET GO. DON'T LET GO. DON'T LET GO.
...WAS LET GO.
...AND SHE WAS ON HER WAY...

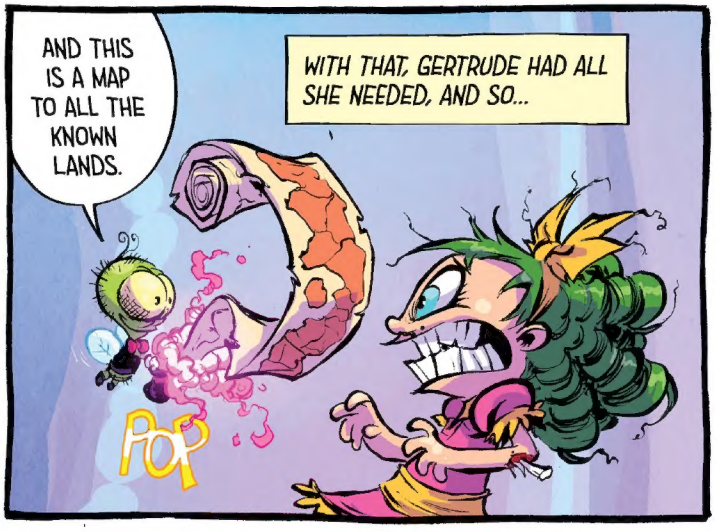

TO AN AMAZING WORLD...
I DON'T WANT TO DIE!
...FILLED WITH WONDER...
I DON'T WANT TO DIE!
...AND MAGIC...
I DON'T WANT TO DIE!
...AND LAUGHTER...
PPUFFFFF
I DON'T WANT TO DIE!
...AND JOY.
I'M GONNA DIE!
WHAP

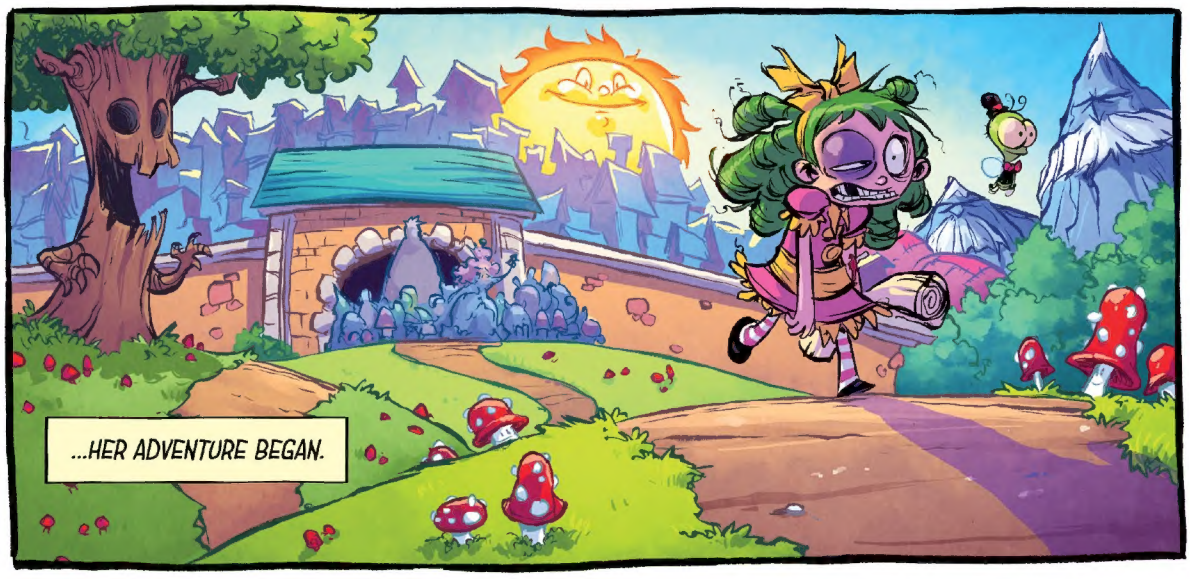
WELCOME TO
FAIRYLAND!

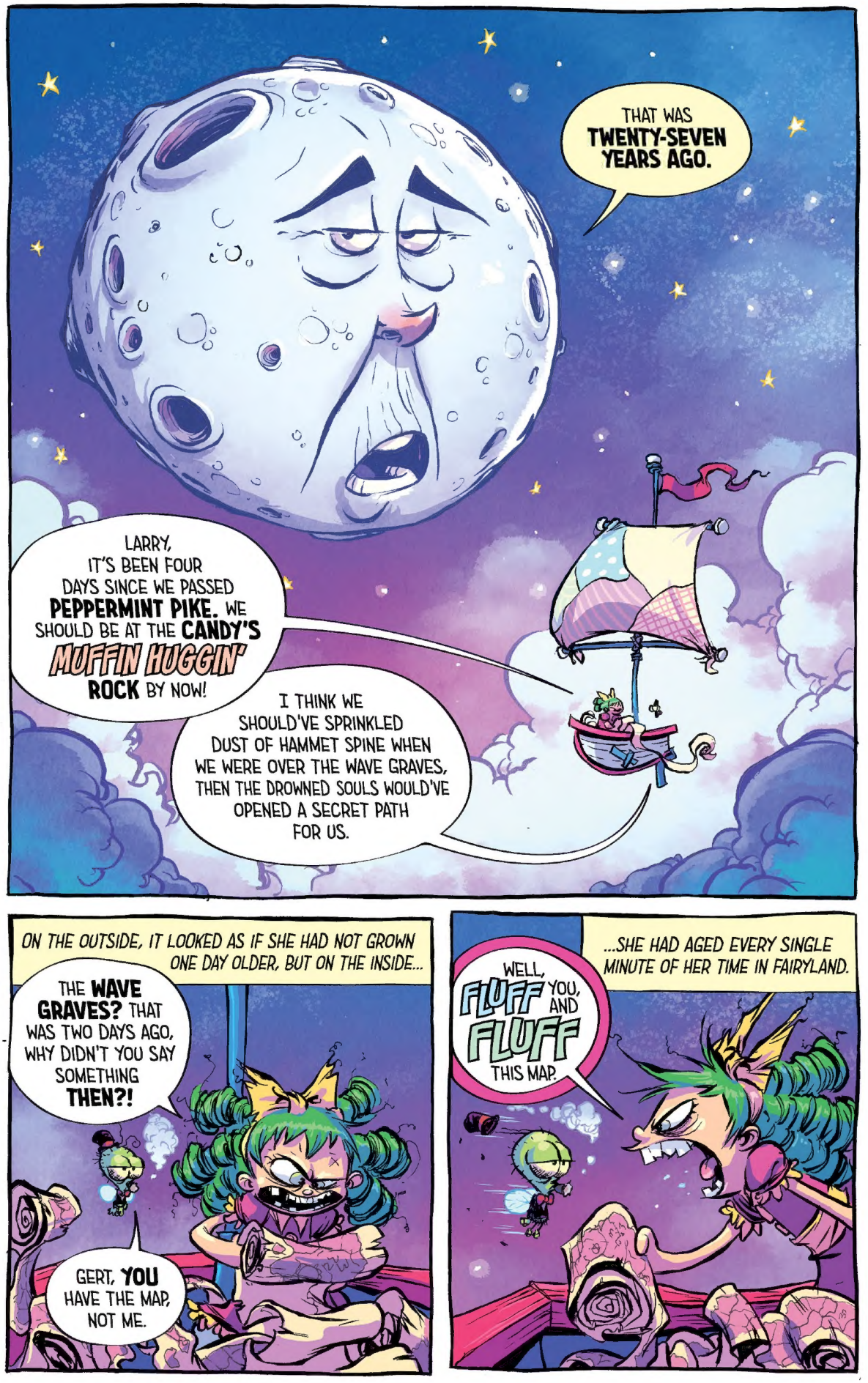

HELLO, GERTRUDE. I AM QUEEN CLOUDIA, RULER OF ALL FAIRYLAND. IT IS A PLEASURE TO HAVE YOU AS OUR GUEST HERE.
AM I DEAD?
HEE-HEE. NO, SWEET CHILD. YOU ARE VERY MUCH ALIVE.
I WOULD LIKE T-TO GO HOME, PLEASE.

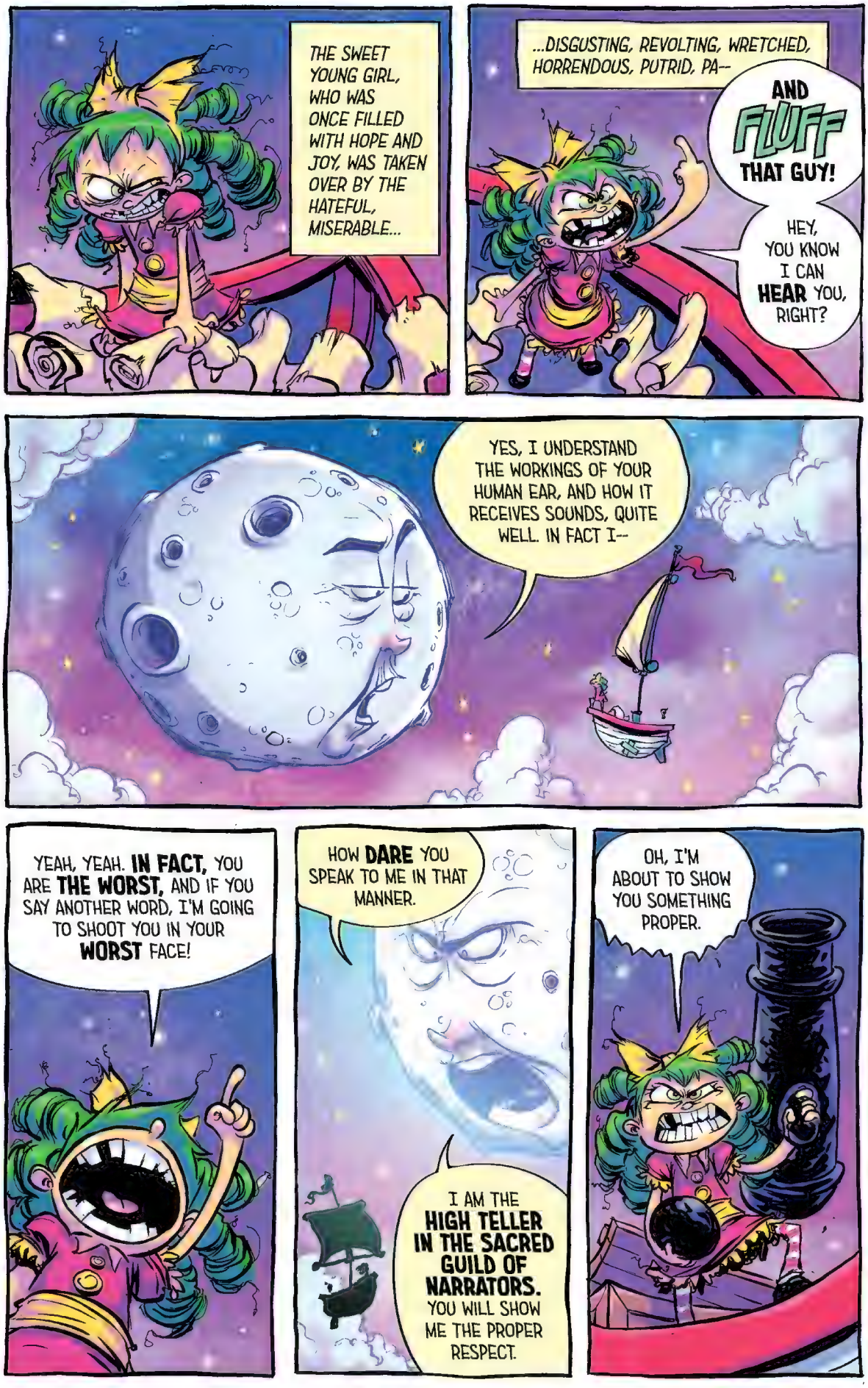
THE QUEEN WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THAT THERE WAS A DOOR BACK TO HER WORLD, ALL GERT NEEDED TO DO WAS FIND A KEY TO UNLOCK IT...
...A QUEST THAT SHOULD ONLY TAKE TWO SHAKES OF A BOGGLEZIG.*
*THAT'S ABOUT A DAY FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO LEFT YOUR FAIRYLAND CONVERSION CHARTS AT HOME.


THEN THE QUEEN GAVE GERTRUDE TWO THINGS TO HELP HER ON HER JOURNEY.
HELLO! I'M LARRIGON WENTSWORTH III. I'LL BE YOUR GUIDE.


AND THIS IS A MAP TO ALL THE KNOWN LANDS.
WITH THAT, GERTRUDE HAD ALL SHE NEEDED, AND SO...
POP

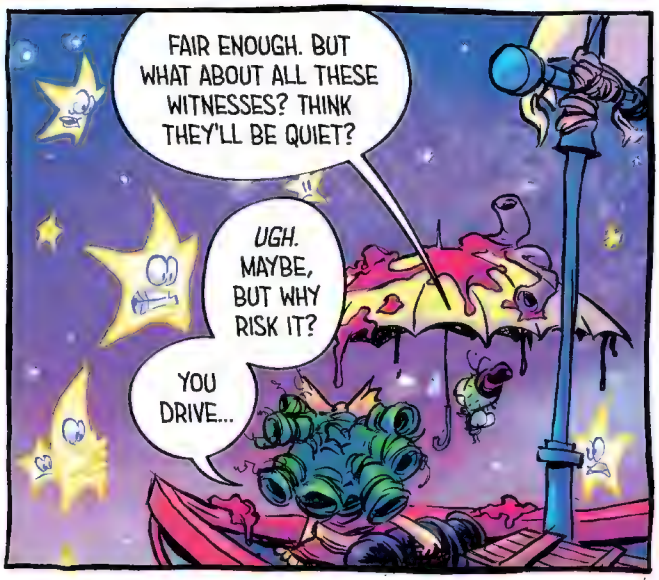

...HER ADVENTURE BEGAN.


THAT WAS TWENTY-SEVEN YEARS AGO.
LARRY, IT'S BEEN FOUR DAYS SINCE WE PASSED PEPPERMINT PIKE. WE SHOULD BE AT THE CANDY'S MUFFIN HUGGIN' ROCK BY NOW!
I THINK WE SHOULD'VE SPRINKLED DUST OF HAMMET SPINE WHEN WE WERE OVER THE WAVE GRAVES, THEN THE DROWNED SOULS WOULD'VE OPENED A SECRET PATH FOR US.
ON THE OUTSIDE, IT LOOKED AS IF SHE HAD NOT GROWN ONE DAY OLDER, BUT ON THE INSIDE...
THE WAVE GRAVES? THAT WAS TWO DAYS AGO, WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SOMETHING THEN?!
GERT, YOU HAVE THE MAP, NOT ME.
...SHE HAD AGED EVERY SINGLE MINUTE OF HER TIME IN FAIRYLAND.
WELL, FLUFF YOU, AND FLUFF THIS MAP.

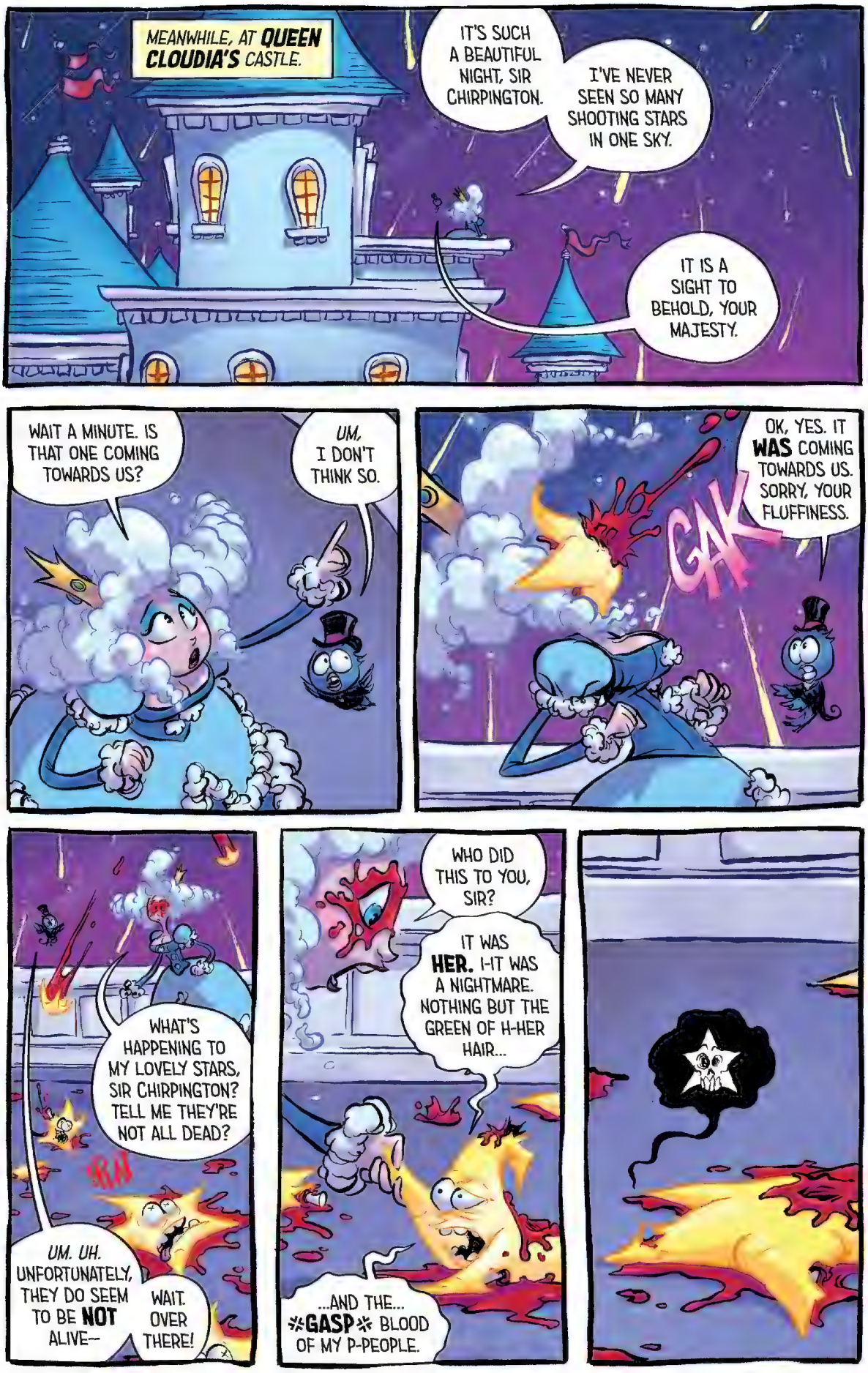

THE SWEET YOUNG GIRL, WHO WAS ONCE FILLED WITH HOPE AND JOY, WAS TAKEN OVER BY THE HATEFUL, MISERABLE...
...DISGUSTING, REVOLTING, WRETCHED, HORRENDOUS, PUTRID, PA--
AND FLUFF THAT GUY!
HEY, YOU KNOW I CAN HEAR YOU, RIGHT?
YES, I UNDERSTAND THE WORKINGS OF YOUR HUMAN EAR, AND HOW IT RECEIVES SOUNDS, QUITE WELL. IN FACT I--
YEAH, YEAH. IN FACT, YOU ARE THE WORST, AND IF YOU SAY ANOTHER WORD, I'M GOING TO SHOOT YOU IN YOUR WORST FACE!
HOW DARE YOU SPEAK TO ME IN THAT MANNER.
I AM THE HIGH TELLER IN THE SACRED GUILD OF NARRATORS. YOU WILL SHOW ME THE PROPER RESPECT.
OH, I'M ABOUT TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING PROPER.

BAM
BOOM

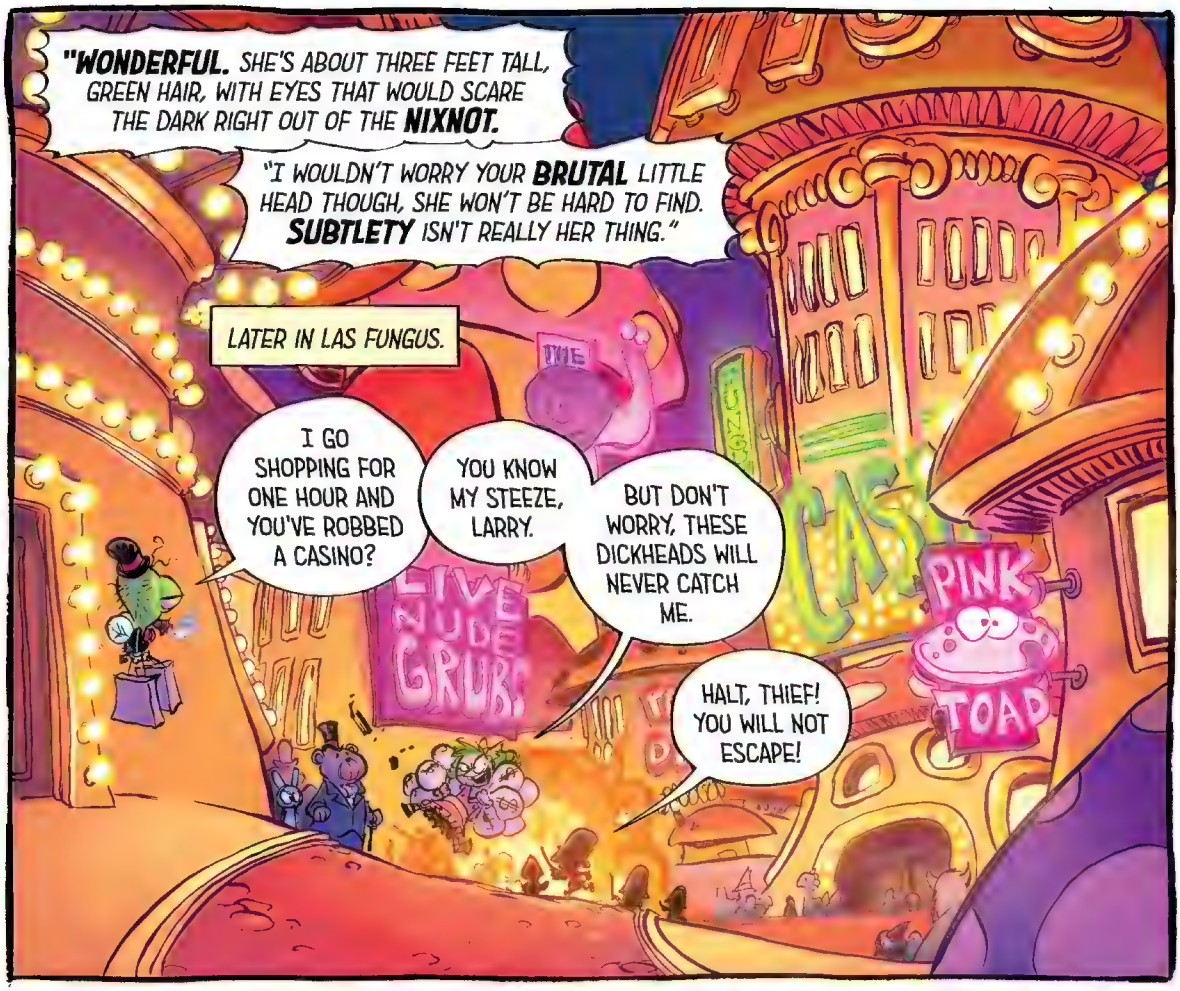
THAT WAS A BIT **MUCH.**
HE WAS RUDE.
AND THAT WAS A PROPORTIONAL RESPONSE?
I WARNED HIM.


FAIR ENOUGH. BUT WHAT ABOUT ALL THESE WITNESSES? THINK THEY'LL BE QUIET?
UGH. MAYBE, BUT WHY RISK IT?
YOU DRIVE...

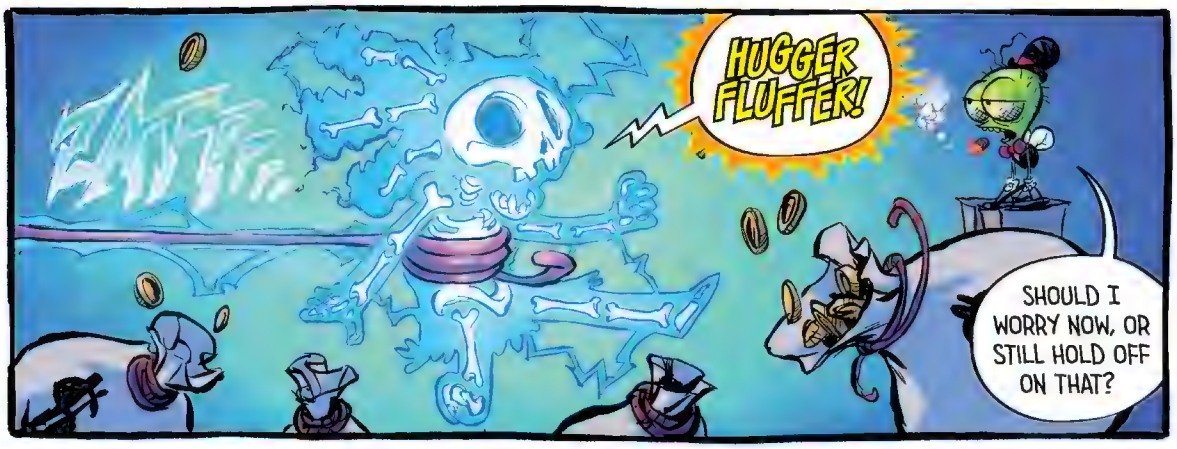
...I'LL SHOOT!
THUNK THUNK
THUNK THUNK THUNK THUNK
ALL RIGHT, BOYS, I WANT TO HEAR BREAKING BONES AND GROWN STARS CRYING FOR THEIR MOMMIES AND DADDIES!
TWINKLE, TWINKLE, LITTLE STAR!
GLAK
SPLUG
ALL THIS WORK IS MAKING ME **HUNGRY.**
I HEAR THE BUFFETS IN **LAS FUNGUS** ARE PRETTY GREAT.
HMM. GRUB AND GAMBLING. I'M IN. SET A COURSE, CAPTAIN LARRY.


MEANWHILE, AT QUEEN CLOUDIA'S CASTLE.
IT'S SUCH A BEAUTIFUL NIGHT, SIR CHIRPINGTON.
I'VE NEVER SEEN SO MANY SHOOTING STARS IN ONE SKY.
IT IS A SIGHT TO BEHOLD, YOUR MAJESTY.
WAIT A MINUTE. IS THAT ONE COMING TOWARDS US?
UM, I DON'T THINK SO.
GAK
OK, YES. IT WAS COMING TOWARDS US. SORRY, YOUR FLUFFINESS.
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO MY LOVELY STARS, SIR CHIRPINGTON? TELL ME THEY'RE NOT ALL DEAD?
UM. UH. UNFORTUNATELY, THEY DO SEEM TO BE NOT ALIVE--
WAIT. OVER THERE!
WHO DID THIS TO YOU, SIR?
IT WAS HER. I-IT WAS A NIGHTMARE. NOTHING BUT THE GREEN OF H-HER HAIR...
...AND THE... *GASP* BLOOD OF MY P-PEOPLE.

GERTRUDE!
I'M GOING TO KILL HER! I'M GOING TO GRAB THOSE PUKE GREEN LOCKS AND--
BUT, QUEEN, YOU KNOW THE RULES PERTAINING TO GUESTS OF FAIRYLAND.
"THE RULER, WHETHER IT BE KING OR QUEEN, MAY NOT HARM ANY GUEST OF FAIRYLAND. NOT--"
"--EVEN A SINGLE HAIR."
YES, YES. YOU'RE RIGHT. THE RULES ARE THE RULES.
I CAN'T HARM HER MYSELF, SURE. BUT IT DOESN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT...
...SUGGESTING
THAT SHOULD HARM COME TO SAID GUEST,
...ONE MIGHT HYPOTHETICALLY BE GIVEN A GENEROUS SUM OF RICHES AS A REWARD FOR BRINGING SAID HARM DOWN ON SAID GUEST.
RINNNNNG...
HELLO.
I'M LOOKING FOR BRUUD THE BRUTAL?
SPEAKING.
SPLENDID. I'M IN NEED OF A HUNTSMEN THAT CAN FIND A CERTAIN SOMEONE AND YOU KNOW...
...MAKE THEM NOT REALLY ALIVE ANYMORE. IS THAT SOMETHING YOU DO?
YUP.


"WONDERFUL. SHE'S ABOUT THREE FEET TALL, GREEN HAIR, WITH EYES THAT WOULD SCARE THE DARK RIGHT OUT OF THE NIXNOT.
"I WOULDN'T WORRY YOUR BRUTAL LITTLE HEAD THOUGH, SHE WON'T BE HARD TO FIND. SUBTLETY ISN'T REALLY HER THING."
LATER IN LAS FUNGUS.
I GO SHOPPING FOR ONE HOUR AND YOU'VE ROBBED A CASINO?
YOU KNOW MY STEEZE, LARRY.
BUT DON'T WORRY, THESE DICKHEADS WILL NEVER CATCH ME.
HALT, THIEF! YOU WILL NOT ESCAPE!
LIVE NUDE GRUBS
PINK TOAD

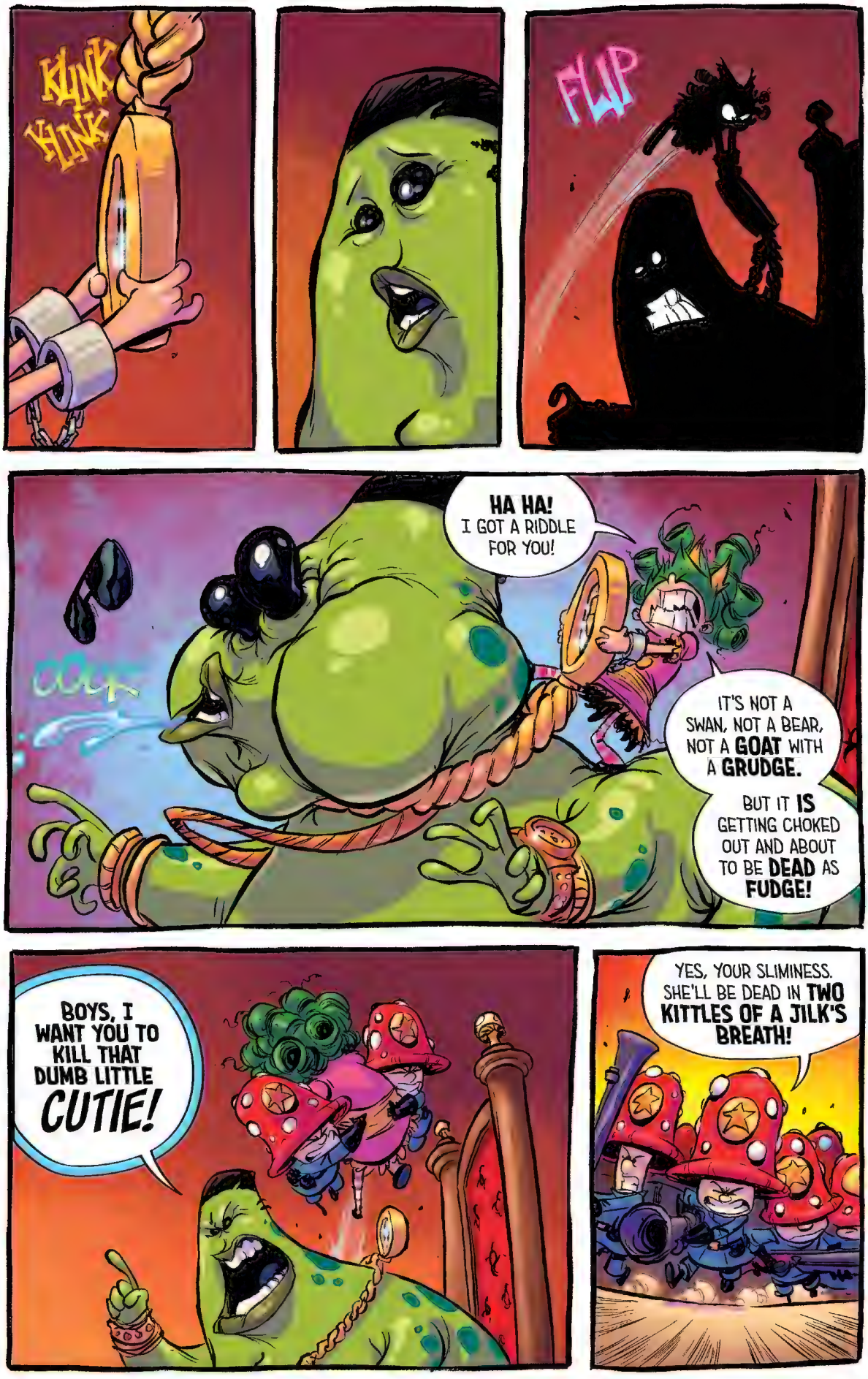
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS MISCREANT'S HATE SPEECH. WE DO NOT HAVE THE HEAD OF THESE SO-CALLED DICKS.
FIRE AT WILL!
YES, CAPTAIN.
THWIP


HUGGER FLUFFER!
SHOULD I WORRY NOW, OR STILL HOLD OFF ON THAT?

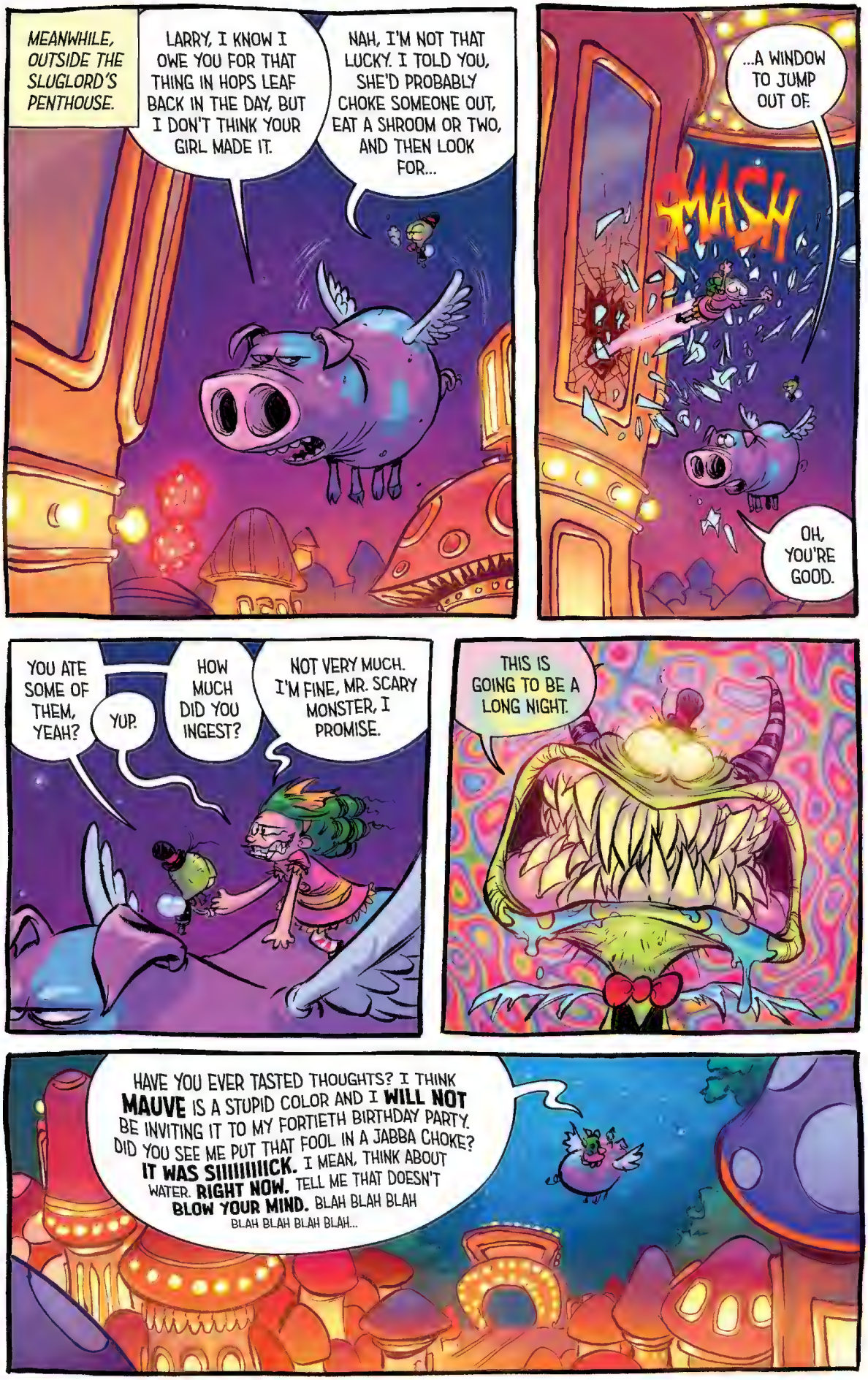
SLUG LORD, I HAVE BROUGHT YOU THE THIEF. PENDING THE TRIAL BY RIDDLE, WOULD YOU LIKE HER SENT TO THE DUNG MINES, OR WORKING IN THE GOOPER HOLES?
THOSE SEEM LIKE FAIR OPTIONS TO ME, CAPTAIN.
WHAT SAY YOU, LITTLE ONE? YOU READY FOR A RIDDLE?
GLIFE
IS ANYONE EVER REALLY READY FOR A RIDDLE? THEY'RE KIND OF THE WORST, RIGHT?
THEN HOW ABOUT I ADD A THIRD OPTION. I GRIND YOUR GUTS AND BONES AND USE IT FOR A ROUX IN TOMORROW'S GUMBO.
FML.
RIDDLE AWAY.

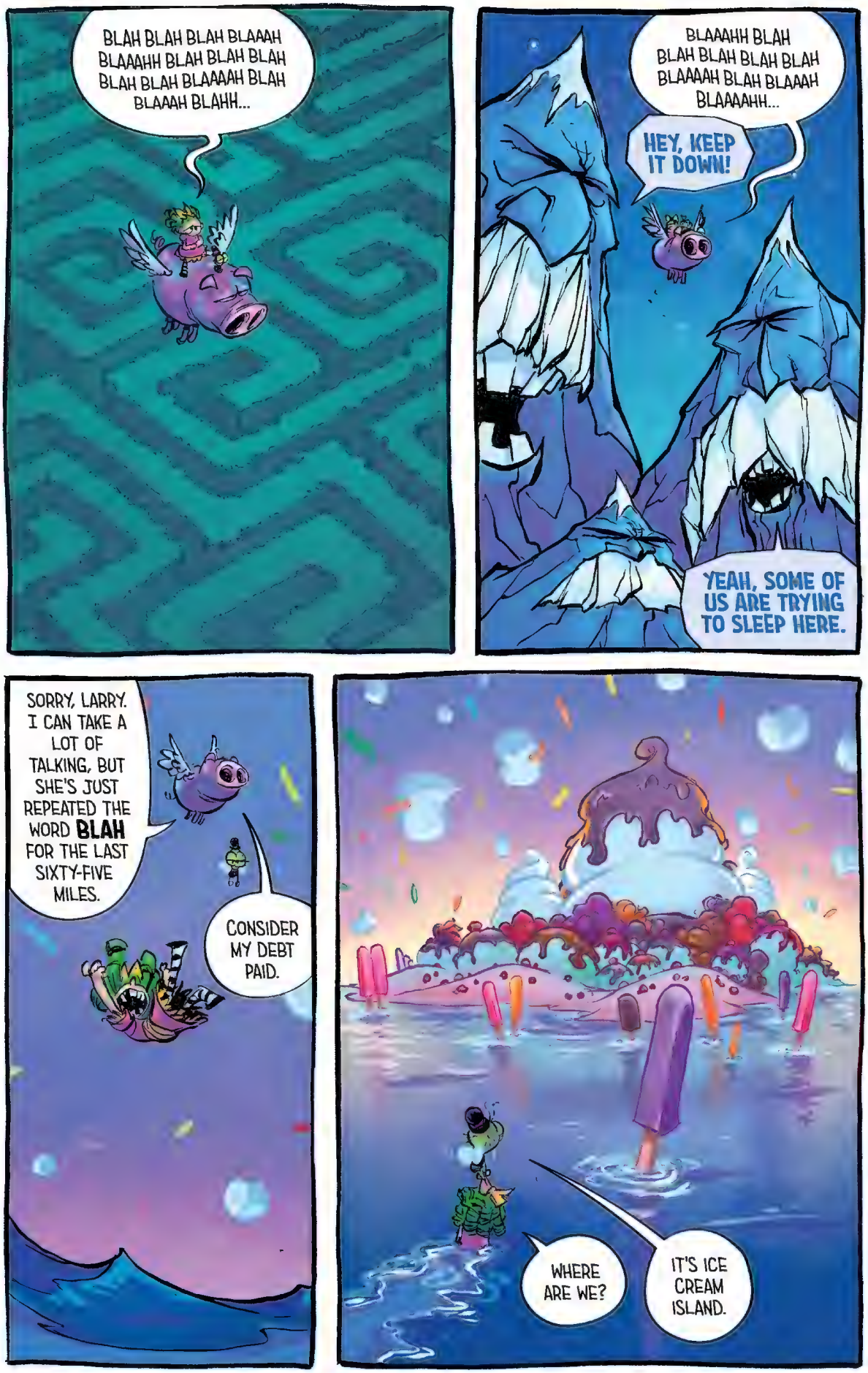
HERE'S A SKULL IN THE WITCH'S BREW, THE BREW IS IN THE BELLY
OF A TEN-TON HEN'S BUN COVERED UP IN JELLY
HIDDEN BY THE VIPER'S NOD OFF INTO THE SLUMBERS
DREAMING OF A Gleaming Dove AND HALF A DOZEN BLUNDERS
WHO DRINK FROM THE SPRING OF TIME BUT HAVE NO TIME TO WASTE
AND WHO EAT FROM THE RINGED MIND BUT CAN'T STAND THE TASTE
DESPITE THE SUGAR-FILLED DEPOSITS OF NICE AND FUZZY STOMACH CRAMPS
THERE'S STILL JUST THE BUZZING OF THE HALF BELOVED BUBBLE LAMPS
WHO ONLY CARE ABOUT YOUR DARKNESS IF LEFT TO THEIR OWN DEVICES
AND WOULD GLADLY TRADE YOUR HOPE FOR A GLASS OF TOASTED ICES
TO MELT AWAY THE VELVET CLAY LEFT BEHIND BY THE LAST SQUEE
ANSWER THIS, ONLY THEN WILL YOU ESCAPE THE MINES OF DUNG
AND SET YOURSELF FREE.

HMMMMMM.
HEH HEH. YOU AIN'T NEVER--
I GOT IT!
YOU DO?
YUP! LEAN IN CLOSE AND I'LL GIVE YOU MY ANSWER.


KLINK
KLINK
FLIP
HA HA!
I GOT A RIDDLE FOR YOU!
IT'S NOT A SWAN, NOT A BEAR, NOT A GOAT WITH A GRUDGE.
BUT IT IS GETTING CHOKED OUT AND ABOUT TO BE DEAD AS FUDGE!
BOYS, I WANT YOU TO KILL THAT DUMB LITTLE CUTIE!
YES, YOUR SLIMINESS. SHE'LL BE DEAD IN TWO KITTLES OF A JILK'S BREATH!

TWO KITTLES OF A JILK'S BREATH LATER...
HA HA HA! HA HAAHA!
LOOK, I'M EATING YOUR COPPERS.
YANK
THEY'RE TOTALLY ALIVE AND I'M EATING THEM ALL!
HAAA!
NAH, YOU AIN'T EATING THEM ALL.
SHROOM PATROL, TAKE HER OUT!
HUH. YEAH, THAT'S A LOT. I DON'T THINK I'M THAT HUNGRY.
THANKS FOR THE HOSPITALITY SLUGGY! I'LL KEEP IN TOUCH!


MEANWHILE, OUTSIDE THE SLUGLORD'S PENTHOUSE.
LARRY, I KNOW I OWE YOU FOR THAT THING IN HOPS LEAF BACK IN THE DAY, BUT I DON'T THINK YOUR GIRL MADE IT.
NAH, I'M NOT THAT LUCKY. I TOLD YOU, SHE'D PROBABLY CHOKE SOMEONE OUT, EAT A SHROOM OR TWO, AND THEN LOOK FOR...
...A WINDOW TO JUMP OUT OF.
SMASH
OH, YOU'RE GOOD.
YOU ATE SOME OF THEM, YEAH?
YUP.
HOW MUCH DID YOU INGEST?
NOT VERY MUCH. I'M FINE, MR. SCARY MONSTER, I PROMISE.
THIS IS GOING TO BE A LONG NIGHT.
HAVE YOU EVER TASTED THOUGHTS? I THINK **MAUVE** IS A STUPID COLOR AND I **WILL NOT** BE INVITING IT TO MY FORTIETH BIRTHDAY PARTY. DID YOU SEE ME PUT THAT FOOL IN A JABBA CHOKE? **IT WAS SIIIIIIIICK.** I MEAN, THINK ABOUT WATER. **RIGHT NOW.** TELL ME THAT DOESN'T **BLOW YOUR MIND.** BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH...

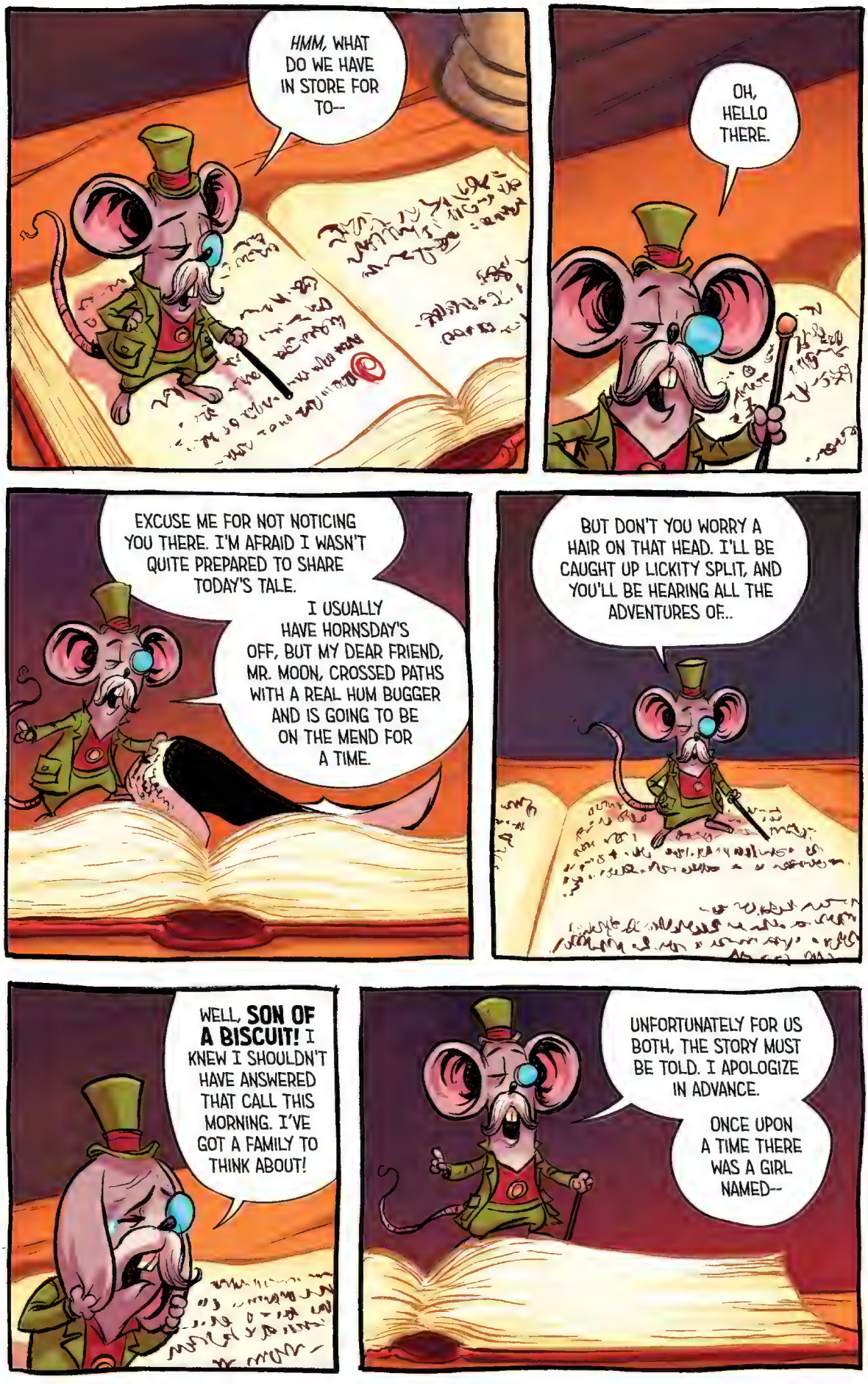

BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAAAH BLAAAHH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAAAAH BLAH BLAAAH BLAHH...
BLAAAHH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAAAAH BLAH BLAAAH BLAAAAHH...
HEY, KEEP IT DOWN!
YEAH, SOME OF US ARE TRYING TO SLEEP HERE.
SORRY, LARRY. I CAN TAKE A LOT OF TALKING, BUT SHE'S JUST REPEATED THE WORD BLAH FOR THE LAST SIXTY-FIVE MILES.
CONSIDER MY DEBT PAID.
WHERE ARE WE?
IT'S ICE CREAM ISLAND.

WHY'S IT SO COLD?
IT'S ICE CREAM ISLAND. THE WORD ICE IS IN THE NAME.
YOU LOOK TERRIBLE.
WELL, I FEEL GREAT.
REALLY? 'CAUSE YOU LOOK TERRIBLE.
I SAID--
HARUKEN
LET ME GUESS. YOU FEEL GREAT?
SHUT THE HUG UP. I JUST NEEDED A PUKING RALLY.
NOW GIMME THE MAP AND LET'S FIGURE OUT WHERE WE'RE GOING NEXT.
YOU KNOW WHAT WOULD BE GREAT, PICK A PLACE THAT HAD THE KEY. JUST A THOUGHT.

LOOKS LIKE THE PURPLE PIG DROPPED US BY THE HOWLING HOLLOWS. WE CAN LOOK FOR IT AROUND THERE.
NOT SURE THAT'S A GREAT IDEA.
YOUR RUN IN WITH MOONY LAST NIGHT IS PROBABLY CAUSING CHAOS WITH THEIR CYCLES.
IF THEY WERE FULLY WOLFED OUT, THEY MIGHT BE STUCK LIKE THAT FOR A WHILE.
GOOD CALL. I'M NOT REALLY INTO GETTING ALL KILLED AND STUFF.
THAT'S TOO BAD...

...THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I'M HERE TO DO...
...AND STUFF.

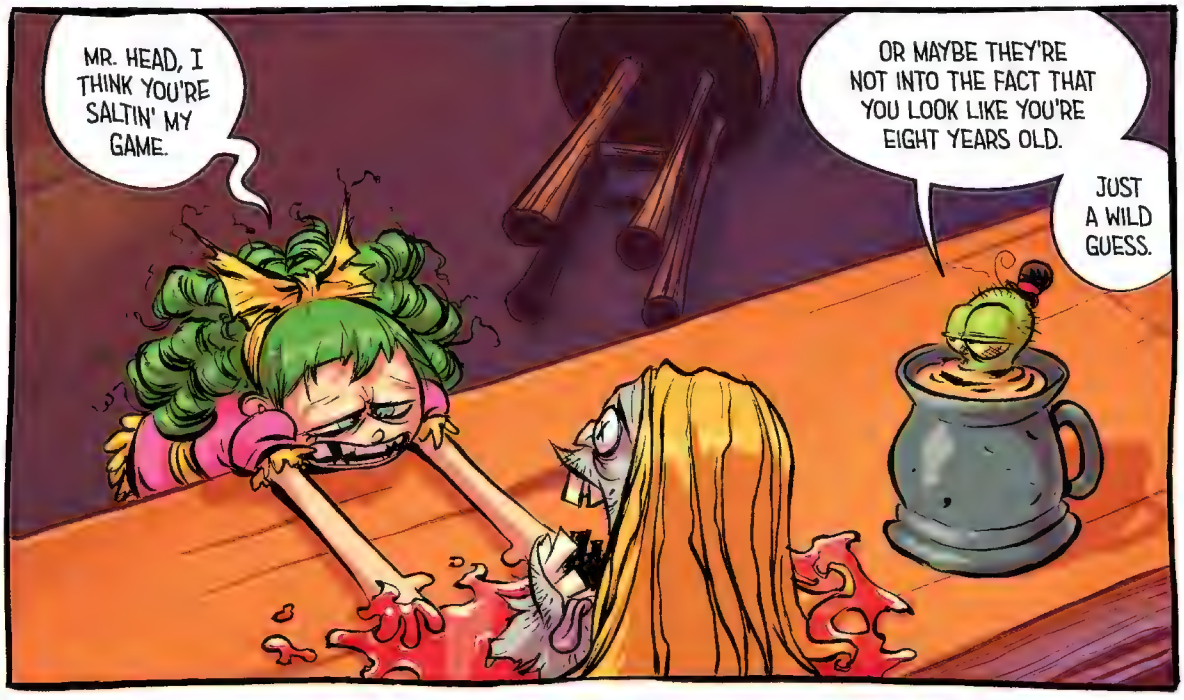
TWO

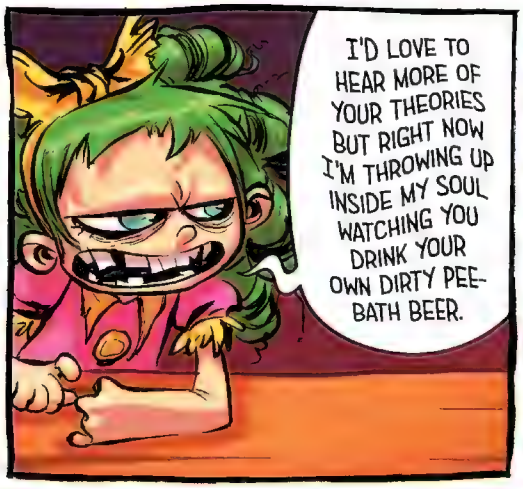

HMM, WHAT DO WE HAVE IN STORE FOR TO--
OH, HELLO THERE.
EXCUSE ME FOR NOT NOTICING YOU THERE. I'M AFRAID I WASN'T QUITE PREPARED TO SHARE TODAY'S TALE.
I USUALLY HAVE HORNSDAY'S OFF, BUT MY DEAR FRIEND, MR. MOON, CROSSED PATHS WITH A REAL HUM BUGGER AND IS GOING TO BE ON THE MEND FOR A TIME.
BUT DON'T YOU WORRY A HAIR ON THAT HEAD. I'LL BE CAUGHT UP LICKITY SPLIT, AND YOU'LL BE HEARING ALL THE ADVENTURES OF..
WELL, SON OF A BISCUIT! I KNEW I SHOULDN'T HAVE ANSWERED THAT CALL THIS MORNING. I'VE GOT A FAMILY TO THINK ABOUT!
UNFORTUNATELY FOR US BOTH, THE STORY MUST BE TOLD. I APOLOGIZE IN ADVANCE.
ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WAS A GIRL NAMED--

SPLORK
...GERTRUDE.
IT'S JUST A LIL' KEY, YA KNOW.
TWENTY-SEVEN YEARS, ONE KEY. IT'S JUST... YA KNOW.
"YEAH, FAIRYLAND SURE DOES SUCK BIG FAT DRAGON GORDS!"
MAN, YOU REALLY GET ME!
I MEAN, IF YOU WOULDN'T HAVE TRIED TO KILL ME, THEN I WOULDN'T HAVE CUT YOUR HEAD OFF WITH YOUR OWN AX, AND WE COULD'VE TOTALLY BEEN BESTIES.

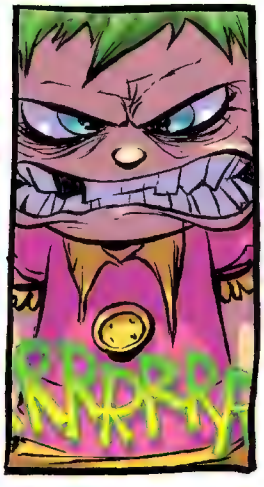
WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME LIKE SOME KIND OF CREEPY CREEP? I'M TRYING TO HAVE A PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH MY NEW FRIEND HERE!
I DO BELIEVE THAT WHEN A PATRON STARTS USING THE SEVERED HEAD OF A HUNTSMAN AS A COMPANION, HE OR SHE MAY HAVE HAD ENOUGH TO DRINK.
LET'S SAY YOU SETTLE UP AND CALL IT A NIGHT.
FIRST, I AIN'T GOT NO MONEY, SO JOKE'S ON YOU.
SECOND, I'M GONNA DRINK THREE MORE OF THESE THEN...
...SEE WHAT IT TAKES TO GET THIS MUFFIN FLUFFER TO TURN INTO A PRINCE!
"RIBBIT, RIBBIT."

HEY! WHERE THE YOU SPELL THINK YOU'RE GOING?


MR. HEAD, I THINK YOU'RE SALTIN' MY GAME.
OR MAYBE THEY'RE NOT INTO THE FACT THAT YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE EIGHT YEARS OLD.
JUST A WILD GUESS.

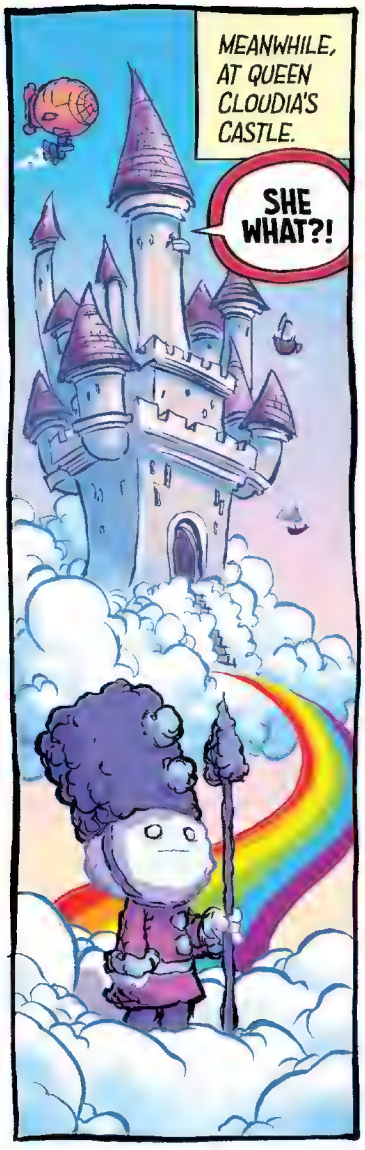

I'D LOVE TO HEAR MORE OF YOUR THEORIES BUT RIGHT NOW I'M THROWING UP INSIDE MY SOUL WATCHING YOU DRINK YOUR OWN DIRTY PEE-BATH BEER.

SLURRRRRRR

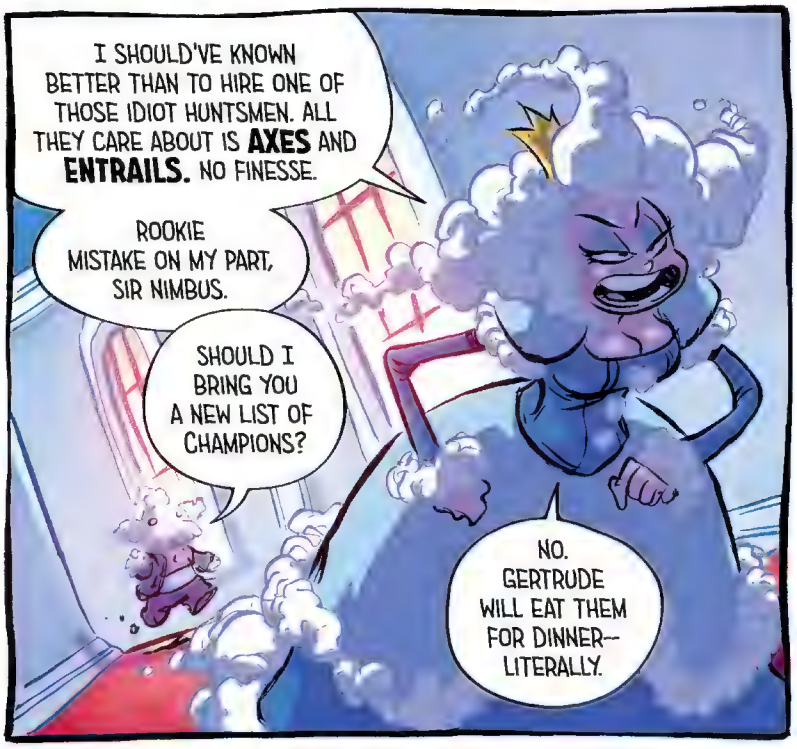

RRRRRRR

STOP IT! QUIT DRINKING YOUR PEE-BEER FOR ONE SECOND AND TRY TO UNDERSTAND HOW BAD IT SUCKS TO BE THIRTY-FLUFFIN'-SEVEN YEARS OLD AND LOOK LIKE A BEAUTIFUL LITTLE CHILD!
LET'S NOT USE THE B-WORD SO LOOSELY.
HUG OFF, LARRY! I WISH I COULD LOOK NORMAL JUST FOR ONE DAY.
ZZZWIP
FUDGE MY LIFE.

WHAT IN THE HOLY FLUFF HAPPENED TO ME? I'M A GOB-DING'D MONSTER!
WISHERS ALE
GRANTING SINCE #02
THAT WOULD BE THE WISHERS ALE YOU'VE BEEN DRINKING. YOU DRINK IT, YOU WISH IT, IT GRANTS IT.
I SAID I WANTED TO LOOK NORMAL. I SURE AS PUFF DIDN'T WISH FOR THIS!
YOU'VE LIVED ON A FAIRYLAND DIET YOUR WHOLE LIFE, WHICH IS BASICALLY SUGAR, SUGAR, AND THEN SOME MORE SUGAR.
SO YOUR NORMAL SEEMS TO BE WALKING TYPE-NINETEEN DIABETIC TUMOR.
HEY, YOU NEVER KNOW, MAYBE THAT FROG KNIGHT FINDS THAT KIND OF THING HOT.
BAP

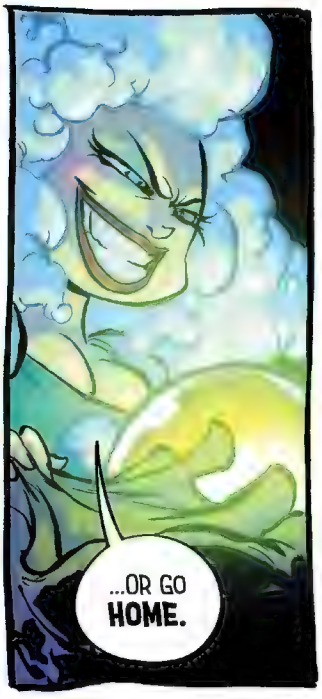

MEANWHILE, AT QUEEN CLOUDIA'S CASTLE.
SHE WHAT?!

YES, YOUR MAJESTY. I'M AFRAID THAT **BRUUD THE BRUTAL** IS NOW MISSING HIS HEAD.


I SHOULD'VE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO HIRE ONE OF THOSE IDIOT HUNTSMEN. ALL THEY CARE ABOUT IS **AXES** AND **ENTRAILS.** NO FINESSE.
ROOKIE MISTAKE ON MY PART, SIR NIMBUS.
SHOULD I BRING YOU A NEW LIST OF CHAMPIONS?
NO. GERTRUDE WILL EAT THEM FOR DINNER— LITERALLY.

YOUR HIGHNESS, THIS IS WHERE WE KEEP THE HORB'S ORB...
...YOU CAN'T THINK THIS IS A GOOD IDEA.

SIR NIMBUS, IT'S TIME TO GO **HARD...**


...OR GO **HOME.**

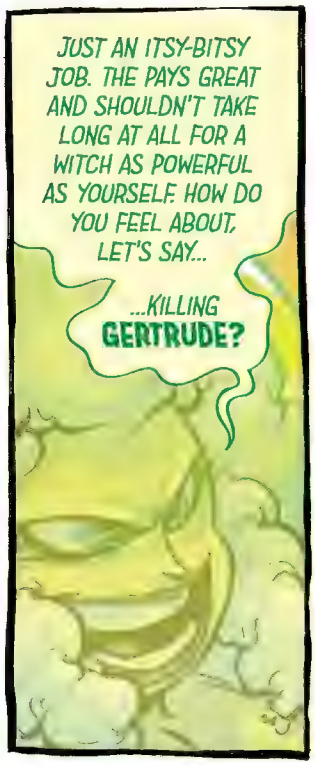
SOMEWHERE NEAR THE BOG OF MADNESS...
EYE OF JINKERS, BONE OF KONK, I CALL ON THE DARKEST OF EVILS KNOWN IN THE--
RIIING... RIIING...

HUH-HUM. THE DARKEST OF EVILS KNOWN IN--
RIIIING... RIIING...
OH COME ON! CAN'T A WITCH GET HER WITCHING ON IN PEACE?

HELLO!
HORRIBELLA, SWEETIE! IT'S SO GOOD TO HEAR YOUR VOICE.

I'VE BEEN MEANING TO COME BY, BRING A BOTTLE OF NECTAR AND--

CUT THE SHRAG CLOUDIA. WHAT DO YOU WANT?

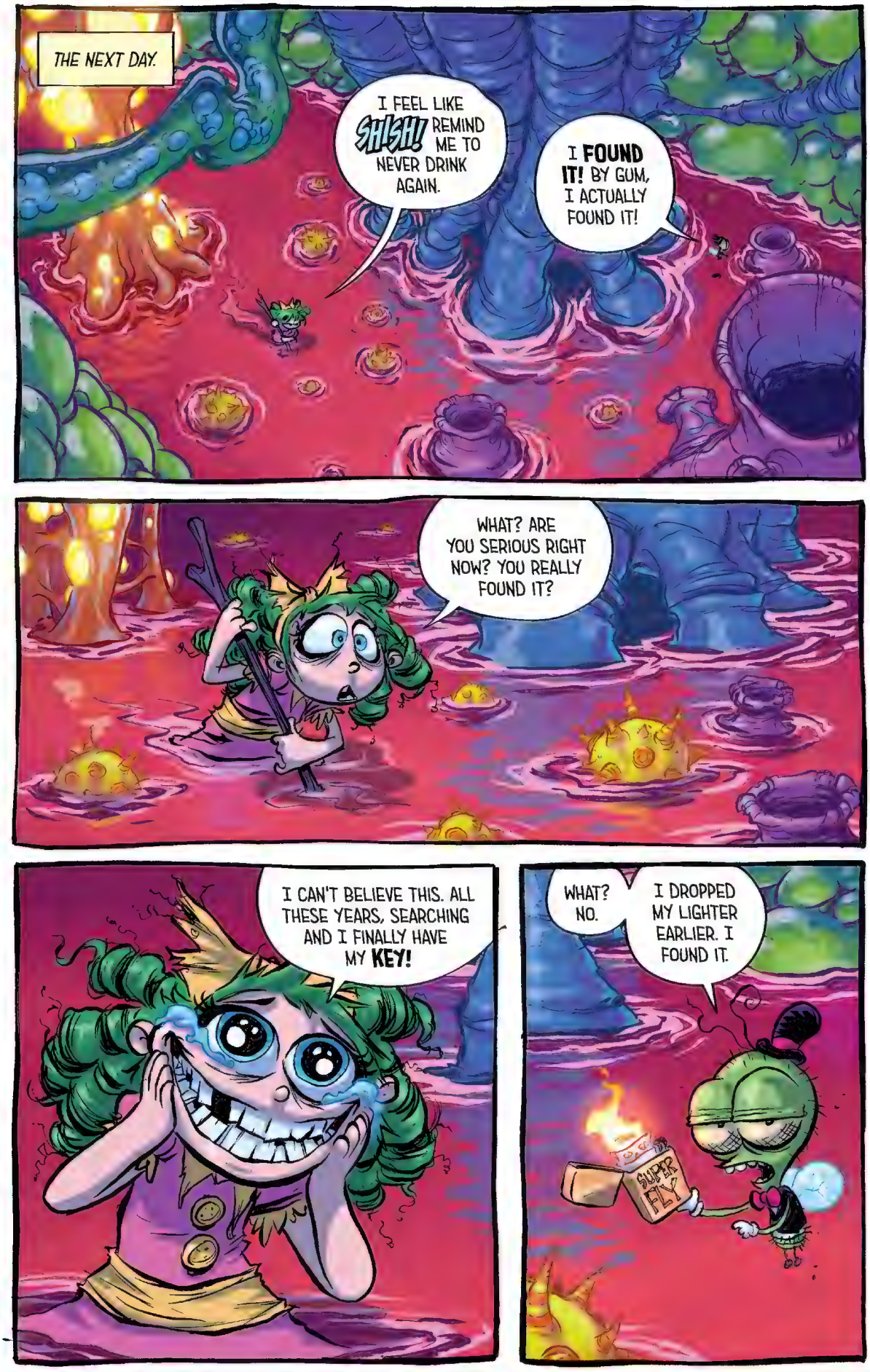

JUST AN ITSY-BITSY JOB. THE PAYS GREAT AND SHOULDN'T TAKE LONG AT ALL FOR A WITCH AS POWERFUL AS YOURSELF. HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT, LET'S SAY...
...KILLING GERTRUDE?

"I FEEL VERY OKAY WITH THAT."
"PERFECT. MY FAIRIES TELL ME SHE'S ON MORT'S TRAIL SOMEWHERE NEAR THE GIGGLE GIANTS.

"THEN IF WHAT I HEAR ABOUT GERTRUDE IS TRUE, SHE'LL END UP IN FAUN VALLEY."
THIS WAY
DEATH'S HEAD
SKY TOWN 5.1 MILES
FAUN VALLEY
DON'T GO

"IS THAT A GOOD THING?"
"YES, I CAN WORK WITH THAT."

YUM. SO RIPE.
THAT IS A WONDERFULL TUNE YOU BLESS MY OLD EARS WITH.
ALLOW ME TO GIVE YOU SOMETHING IN RETURN.
THANK YOU, MY LADY. YOU ARE A VERY--
GUUH!
THE OLD, "OOPS, YOU THOUGHT YOU WERE EATING FRUIT BUT IT WAS REALLY SPOILED, CURSED BRAINS" TRICK.
GETS 'EM EVERY TIME.


THE NEXT DAY.
I FEEL LIKE SHISH! REMIND ME TO NEVER DRINK AGAIN.
I FOUND IT! BY GUM, I ACTUALLY FOUND IT!
WHAT? ARE YOU SERIOUS RIGHT NOW? YOU REALLY FOUND IT?
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS. ALL THESE YEARS, SEARCHING AND I FINALLY HAVE MY KEY!
WHAT? NO.
I DROPPED MY LIGHTER EARLIER. I FOUND IT.
SUPER FLY

I HATE YOUR GUTS.
YOU LOVE MY GUTS.
NO, I DON'T. I HATE THEM. I WANT TO PULL THEM OUT OF YOU...
...AND DO HURTFUL THINGS TO THEM.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND. THE BOPPY TOP SAID IT WOULD BE HERE.
WE SEARCHED EVERY INCH OF THIS PLACE. MAYBE YOU HEARD THEM WRONG.
NO WAY. I REMEMBER IT VERY CLEARLY.
SHE SAID...

...SLAY THE **TICKLE TROLL AND HUNT THE HEART.**

NOT EVEN **CLOSE.**

SHE SAID **PAY THE FICKLE TOLL OR BE BUMPED TO START.**

WHAT TOLL?

BEATS ME. ANYWAY, THESE WEREN'T **TICKLE TROLLS,** THEY'RE **GIGGLE GIANTS.**

TICKLE, GIGGLE, WHATEVER. THEY WON'T BE LAUGHING ANYMORE, WILL THEY?

ANYWAY, WE'RE NEAR FAUN VALLEY. I HEAR THE *HORN AND HOOF* SERVES A MEAN MARGARITA.

WHAT ABOUT THE **"NO MORE DRINKING"** THING YOU DECLARED AFTER YOUR DAY OF BEING **NORMAL?**

WHAT ABOUT THE "YOU SHUT YOUR MOUTH AND LET'S GO GET **CANNONED"** THING?

FAIR ENOUGH. I'M IN.

A SHORT TIME LATER.
WHAT DO YOU MISS MOST ABOUT YOUR WORLD?
EVERYTHING. YOU KNOW, SLEEPING IN BEDS, ASKING FOR DIRECTIONS AND GETTING A STRAIGHT ANSWER INSTEAD OF A HAIKU...

...SCHOOL, PLAYING WITH MY FRIENDS, SPENDING MY DAYS BEING LOVED BY MY PARENTS INSTEAD OF WALKING ENDLESSLY THROUGH A WORLD THAT KIDNAPPED ME AND FORCED ME TO FIND A HUGGIN' PUFFIN' KEY THAT I COULD GIVE TWO ZIPS ABOUT JUST TO GET BACK TO THE PLACE I WAS TO BEGIN WITH AND--
GERT, SHUT UP FOR A MINUTE. WHAT'S THAT UP THERE ON THE PATH?

IT'S A BRAIN.
AND IT LOOKS LIKE IT HAS A BITE TAKEN OUT OF IT.
YEAH, SO. WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?

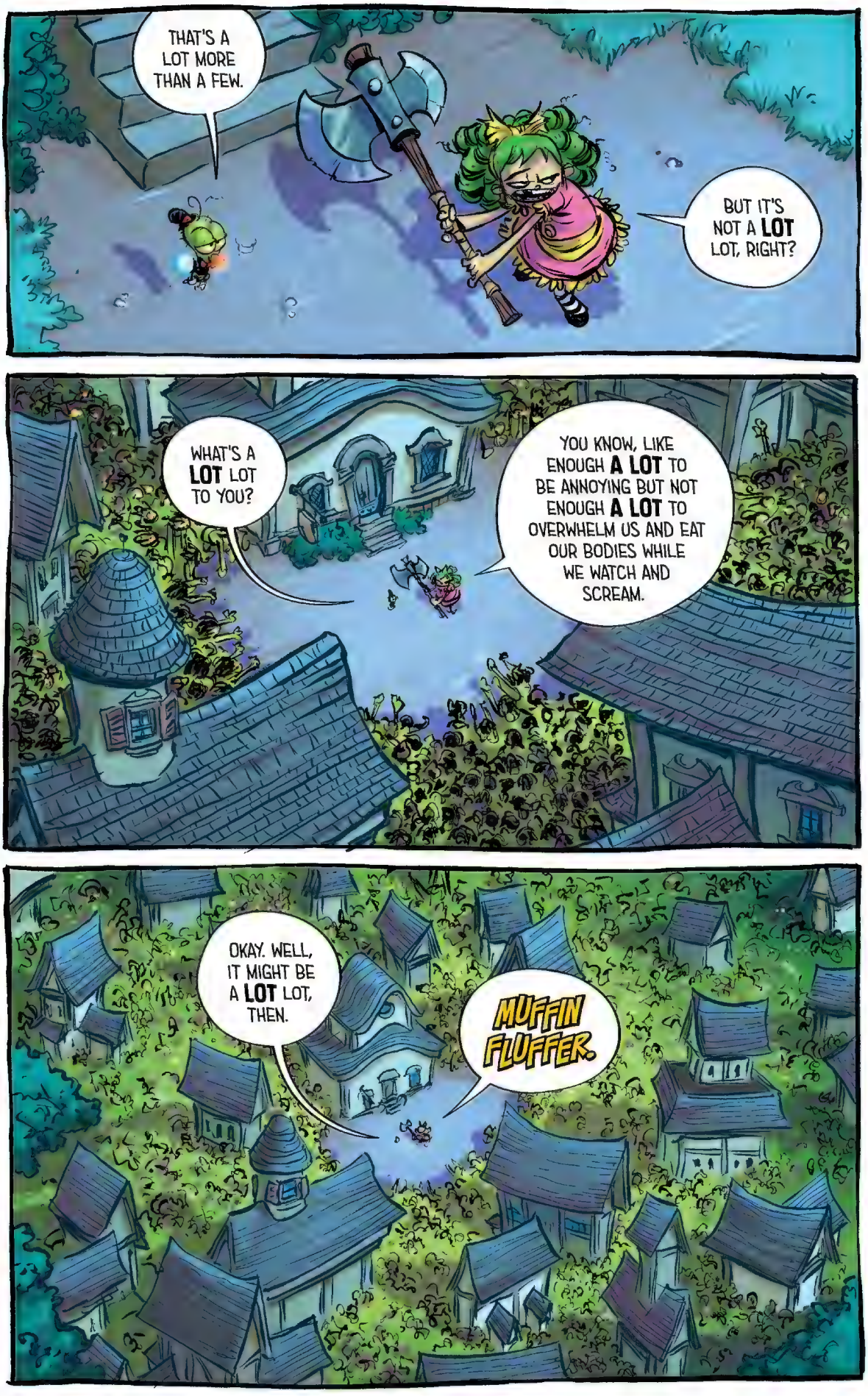
WELL, IT'S A BRAIN LAYING IN THE ROAD AND IT LOOKS LIKE IT HAD A BITE TAKEN OUT OF IT. A LOT IS WRONG WITH THAT.
THIS IS A BAD SIGN. WE NEED TO STAY AWAY FROM FAUN VALLEY.
LARRY, I THINK YOU'RE LOOKING WAY TOO DEEP INTO THIS WHOLE BRAIN-ON-THE-GROUND THING.

OH LOOK, AN ENTIRE VILLAGE EERILY ABANDONED AND FILLED WITH CREEPY FOG.
THERE'S **NOTHING** WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE.
DRAMA KING OVER HERE. QUIT BEING SUCH A NAYSAYER. EVERYTHING'S FINE.
HERE'S THE PLACE. I BET WE'RE GOING TO GO INSIDE AND FIND THE WHOLE TOWN LIT UP AND HAVING A **GREAT** TIME.
HORN & HOOF
OR WE'LL SEE **THAT.**
GUUUGGH.

"NO, LARRY, THE BRAIN WASN'T SUSPICIOUS AT ALL. THERE'S NO WAY WE'LL WALK INTO FAUN OF THE DEAD!"
SWEET PUN. NOW IF YOU'RE DONE BAWLING AROUND, I'D LIKE TO TRY OUT THE NEW TOY WE GOT FROM THE HEADLESS HUNTSMAN.
BOOF
ALL RIGHT, BOYS, WHO WANTS TO TRY AND EAT SOME OF THIS?
DO YOU EVER HEAR YOURSELF SPEAK? LIKE ACTUALLY LISTEN TO YOUR WORDS?
GAARG!
GRAH!

CHOP
SLICE
SPLAT
SPLAT
THAT WENT BETTER THAN EXPECTED.
YOU KNOW BETTER THAN TO DOUBT ME, LARRY.
IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN A FEW ROTTING FAUNS TO...

...RUIN MY DAY.


THAT'S A LOT MORE THAN A FEW.
BUT IT'S NOT A LOT LOT, RIGHT?
WHAT'S A LOT LOT TO YOU?
YOU KNOW, LIKE ENOUGH A LOT TO BE ANNOYING BUT NOT ENOUGH A LOT TO OVERWHELM US AND EAT OUR BODIES WHILE WE WATCH AND SCREAM.
OKAY. WELL, IT MIGHT BE A LOT LOT, THEN.
MUFFIN FLUFFER.

THREE

HELLO, MY DEAR READER. I'M AFRAID THERE'S A BIT OF A SITUATION GOING ON HERE SO TODAY'S STORYTELLING MIGHT FALL A LITTLE BELOW THE STANDARDS OF THE NARRATORS GUILD.
NEVERTHELESS, A TALE MUST BE TOLD.
SO, LET'S MAKE A GO OF IT, SHALL WE?
ONCE UPON A—
GUH...
...TIME.
I DON'T THINK HE WAS A ZOMBIE FAUN.
OOPS. MY BAD, INNOCENT OLD MAN.

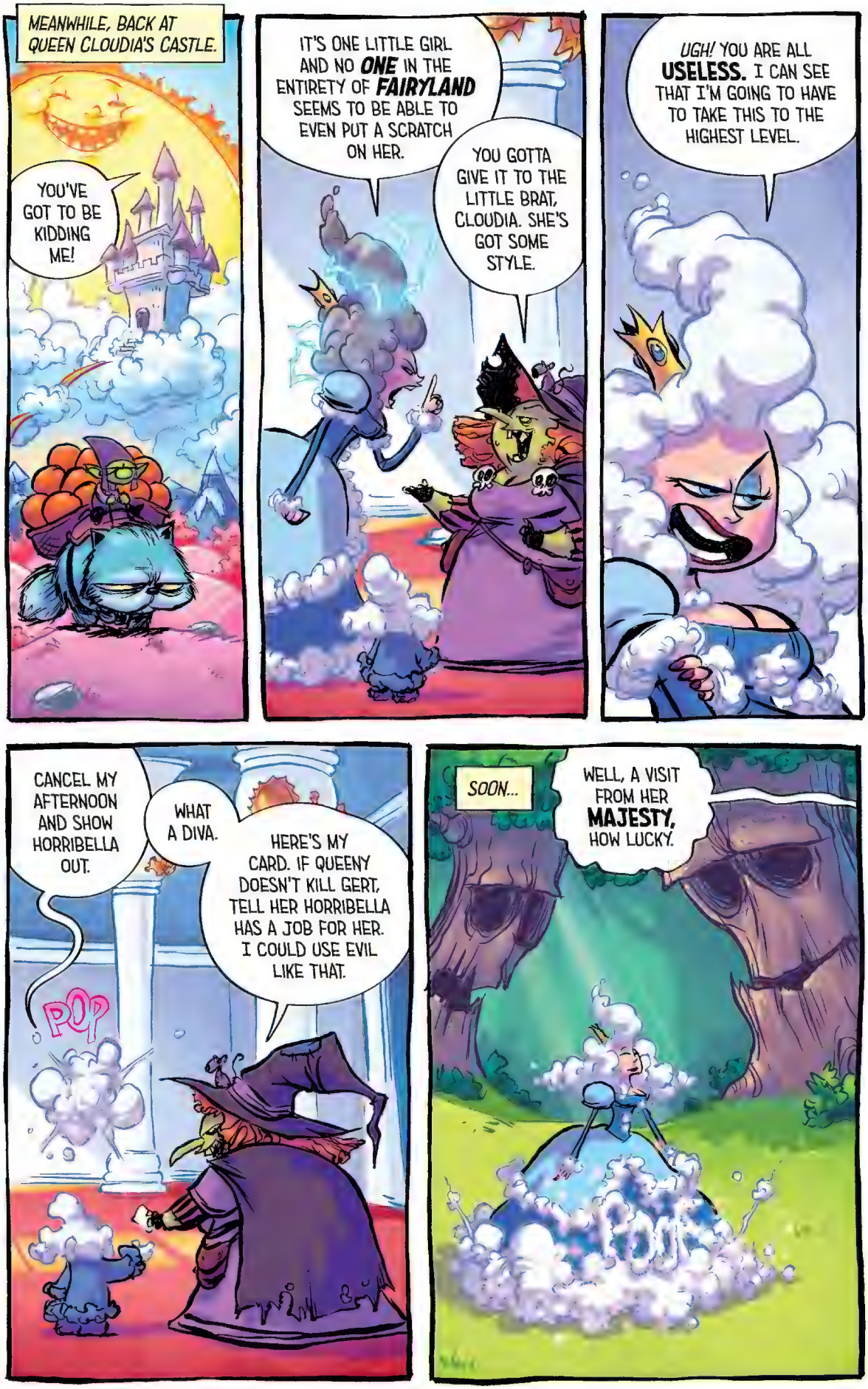
♪ BUT HEY, LET'S LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE ***INSTEEEAD!*** ♪

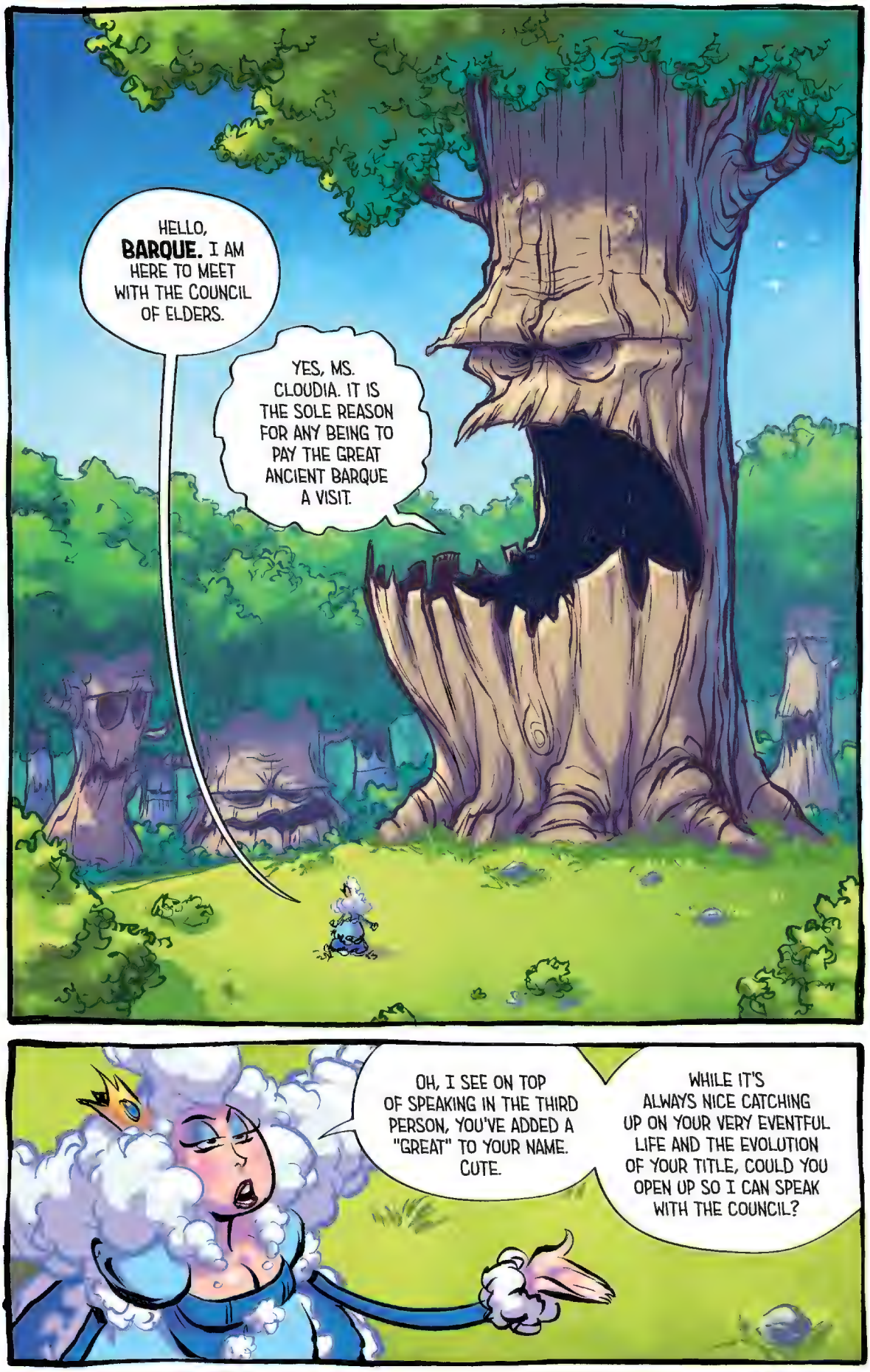
♫ DESPITE THIS POOR SAP, ALL THE ZOMBIES ARE ***DEEEEAD!*** ♫

♪ NOW IT'S TIME TO— ♫

I CAN'T KILL YOU, BUT I CAN SHOOT YOU IN THE THROAT IF YOU DON'T STOP THAT THING YOU THINK IS SINGING.

YOU DID A PRETTY GOOD JOB WITH THAT NEW BATTLE AXE, BUT THEY WERE **UNDEAD.**
SEEMS LIKE THEY COULD JUST **UN-UNDEAD** THEMSELVES AGAIN, YEAH?
GOOD POINT.
YOU STILL GOT THAT **SCORCHLING** WE TOOK BACK ON HORC'S PEAK?
I THINK IT'S IN HERE SOMEWHERE.
YUP.
SWEET!
THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH TO KEEP THEM DE--
LARRY, SHUT YOUR MAGGOTY MOUTH. I'M TRYING TO SLO-MO AWAY FROM THIS EXPLOSION AND YOU'RE KILLING MY VIBE.


MEANWHILE, BACK AT QUEEN CLOUDIA'S CASTLE.
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME!
IT'S ONE LITTLE GIRL AND NO ONE IN THE ENTIRETY OF FAIRYLAND SEEMS TO BE ABLE TO EVEN PUT A SCRATCH ON HER.
YOU GOTTA GIVE IT TO THE LITTLE BRAT, CLOUDIA. SHE'S GOT SOME STYLE.
UGH! YOU ARE ALL USELESS. I CAN SEE THAT I'M GOING TO HAVE TO TAKE THIS TO THE HIGHEST LEVEL.
CANCEL MY AFTERNOON AND SHOW HORRIBELLA OUT.
WHAT A DIVA.
HERE'S MY CARD. IF QUEENY DOESN'T KILL GERT, TELL HER HORRIBELLA HAS A JOB FOR HER. I COULD USE EVIL LIKE THAT.
POP
SOON...
WELL, A VISIT FROM HER MAJESTY, HOW LUCKY.


HELLO, **BARQUE.** I AM HERE TO MEET WITH THE COUNCIL OF ELDERS.
YES, MS. CLOUDIA. IT IS THE SOLE REASON FOR ANY BEING TO PAY THE GREAT ANCIENT BARQUE A VISIT.
OH, I SEE ON TOP OF SPEAKING IN THE THIRD PERSON, YOU'VE ADDED A "GREAT" TO YOUR NAME. CUTE.
WHILE IT'S ALWAYS NICE CATCHING UP ON YOUR VERY EVENTFUL LIFE AND THE EVOLUTION OF YOUR TITLE, COULD YOU OPEN UP SO I CAN SPEAK WITH THE COUNCIL?

VERY WELL. TELL THE GREAT ANCIENT BARQUE THE SECRET PASSWORD.
YOU DO SEE THE CROWN, YES? I'M THE QUEEN OF ALL FAIRYLAND. DO I REALLY NEED A PASSWORD?

MANY A BEING HAS PLACED THE CROWN UPON THEIR HEADS DURING THE MILLENNIA IN WHICH I HAVE BEEN THE HOLDER OF THE COUNCIL.
YOU ARE BUT THE CURRENT BEARER AND LIKE THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE AND THOSE WHO WILL COME AFTER...
YOU WILL TELL THE--

YEAH, YEAH. I GET IT. TELL BARQUE THE PASSWORD. FINE.
PIZZA.

THE CHAMBER OF THE COUNCIL OF ELDERS.
THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING ME TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL TODAY.
I'M HERE TO DISCUSS A PROBLEM THAT HAS PLAGUED OUR LANDS AND KINGDOMS FOR FAR TOO LONG.
THE HUMAN GIRL KNOWN AS GERTRUDE.
I'M NOT SURE WHAT THERE IS TO DISCUSS. SHE WILL CONTINUE TO QUEST UNTIL SHE FINDS THE KEY.
I AGREE WITH THE FUNG FATHER. THE BOOKS OF ALL STATE THAT--
THAT, "THE DOOR IS TO BE OPENED FOR ONE CHILD, AND ONE CHILD ALONE." AND, "UNTIL THAT CHILD COMPLETES THEIR QUEST FOR THE KEY, THE DOOR TO FAIRYLAND IS TO REMAIN CLOSED."
TRUST ME, I'VE READ IT A FEW TIMES.

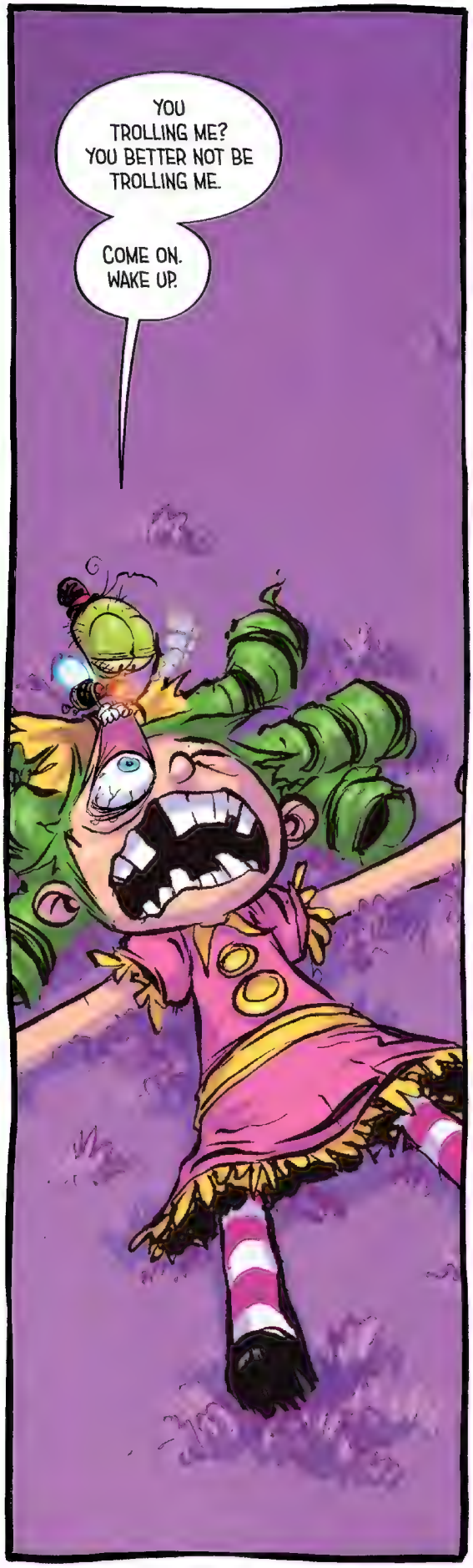
THEN WHY DO YOU BOTHER THE ELDERS WITH SUCH THINGS WHEN YOU KNOW THE LAWS OF FAIRYLAND SO WELL?
BECAUSE IT'S BEEN 27 YEARS. I THINK THE WRITERS OF ORIGIN WOULD'VE WRITTEN IN AN ESCAPE CLAUSE HAD THEY ANTICIPATED SOMEONE AS TERRIBLE AT THIS AS SHE IS.
SO WHAT DO YOU PROPOSE?
SIMPLE. WE INVITE A NEW CHILD TO FAIRYLAND.
IF THIS NEW GUEST REACHES THE KEY FIRST, THEN GERTRUDE WILL NO LONGER BE A VISITOR TO FAIRYLAND.
AS WE ALL KNOW, I CAN'T HARM A VISITOR.
BUT ONCE GERTRUDE BECOMES A LIFETIME CITIZEN...
...I CAN HARM HER--UNTIL THERE IS NOTHING LEFT TO HARM--AND WE WOULD BE RID OF HER ONCE AND FOR ALL.
WHO'S IN?
PERFECT. LET'S NOT DAWDLE.

MEANWHILE, IN THE LAND OF THE POLKACORNS.
I REALLY DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT THE BIG DEAL IS.
IT'LL GROW BACK, RIGHT?
I'M NOT REALLY CAUGHT UP ON MY CENTAUR SCIENCE.

WHEN WE GET ACROSS, PUSH THIS TREE DOWN. THEN THE HORSIE MAN WILL...
...PLUMMET TO THE BOTTOM AND FEEL A FLUFF LOAD OF PAI—
SWAP
TRY TO LOOSEN YOUR KNEES AND JUST ROLL WITH THE FALL.
NOT LIKE THAT.

SO I WAS THINKING WE COULD HIT UP THE **LOOPSIE LANDING** AFTER THIS. EVEN IF WE DON'T FIND THE KEY THERE, I GOT A FRIEND THAT CAN HOOK US UP WITH SOME **LOLLY POLLIES** AND WE'LL BE GLAZED FOR A GOOD WEEK OR SO.

GERT? LET'S GO. IF WE LEAVE NOW WE CAN CATCH THE **FAIRY FERRY** AND I WON'T HAVE TO FLY YOUR BIG HEAD ACROSS THE **SALTED CARAMEL SEA.**


YOU TROLLING ME? YOU BETTER NOT BE TROLLING ME.
COME ON. WAKE UP.

GREAT. NOTHING LIKE A LITTLE RAIN TO MAKE A MISERABLE LIFE A BIT MORE MISERABLE.
THANKS, WEATHER KING.
YOU'RE WELCOME.

Ha

Burp

♪ LA, LA, LALALALA LALA...♫
♫ LA, LA, LALALA, LA... ♪
LARRY, IF YOU DON'T STOP SINGING, I'M GOING TO MAKE SURE YOU DON'T LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO GET MARRIED AND RAISE A FAMILY.
#SOB# IT AIN'T ME.
♫ LA, LA, LA, LA, LA... ♪
COME ON! WHO THE HUG IS SINGING THEN?
HELLO THERE! I'M HAPPY!

I CAN TELL, BUT WHO ARE YOU?
HEE-HEE. YOU'RE SO SILLY. SURE, I **AM** HAPPY, AND MY NAME **IS** HAPPY--AND THIS IS MY GUIDE, **MS. LADY.**
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

DON'T WORRY ABOUT MY NAME. I'LL BE ASKING THE QUESTIONS.
FIRST, WHERE'D YOU COME FROM?

JOYVILLE, WISCONSIN. IT'S LIKE THE **BEST** SMALL LITTLE--

NO VAMPING HERE, SMILES.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN FAIRYLAND?

I'M ON A **QUEST** TO FIND A **KEY.**

THE KEY BACK TO THE NORMAL, HUMAN WORLD?

YEAH, TOTALLY!

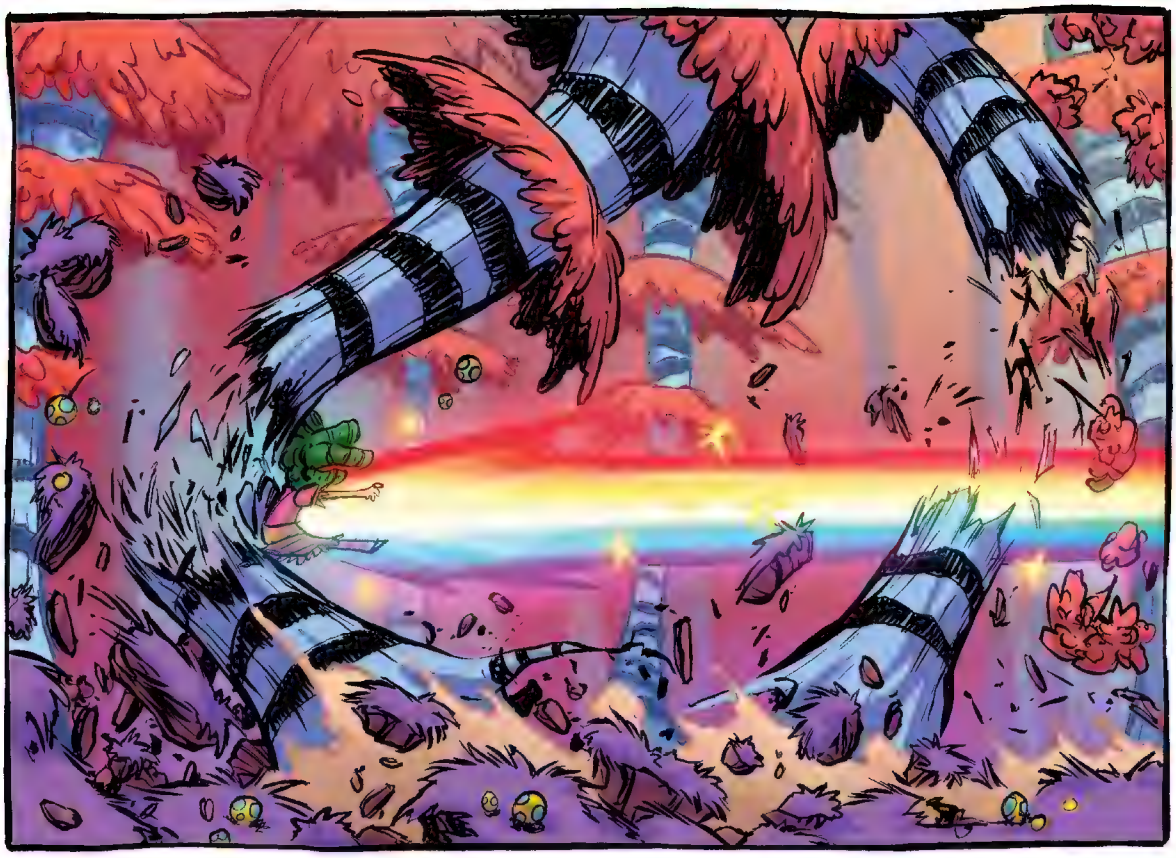
YOU MUST HAVE BEEN HERE FOR A LONG TIME IF YOU'VE MADE IT THIS FAR.
OH MY, YES. IT' SEEMS LIKE FOR. EVER. I NEVER THOUGHT IT WOULD TAKE ME SO LONG.
IT'S BEEN ALMOST ONE WHOLE DAY.
LOOK, I GET IT. IT'S LIKE TIME JUST KEEPS ON GOING AND GOING, AND YOUR HEART JUST KEEPS BREAKING EVERY TIME YOU REALIZE THE WARM EMBRACE OF YOUR MOTHER AND FATHER IS THAT MUCH FURTHER AWA...
WAIT! ONE DAY? I DON'T BELIEVE IT.
I KNOW, RIGHT. IT'S LIKE, HOW DID I GET SO LUCKY TO SPEND SO MUCH TIME IN A PLACE THIS WONDERFUL. COULD YOU IMAGINE ANYTHING BETTER?

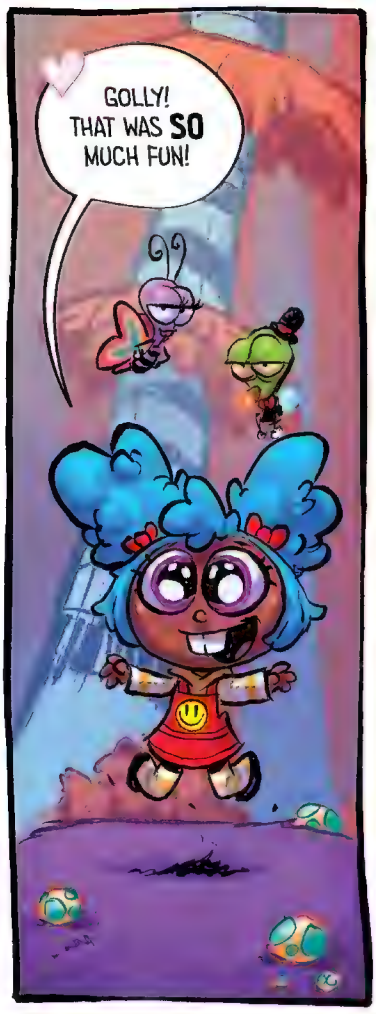
I DON'T UNDERSTAND. HOW DID YOU DO IT? IT WAS THE EYE OF SECRETS, WASN'T IT? WHAT DID SHE GIVE YOU? THAT HUGGER FLUFFIN' SACK OF WHISPERS IS SUCH A LIAR!
HMM. LET'S SEE.
I BROUGHT HER SIDEWAYS WATER AND SHE GAVE ME THE THREE DAY STAR, THEN--
THAT GITCH! SHE GAVE ME A PAIR OF MOLDY WOOTEN NUTS AND SAID IT WOULD SUMMON THE SPIRIT OF...
...YOU KNOW WHAT? NEVER MIND. DOESN'T MATTER.
LAST QUESTION.
DO YOU THINK IT WILL BE ANY HARDER TO FIND THE KEY...

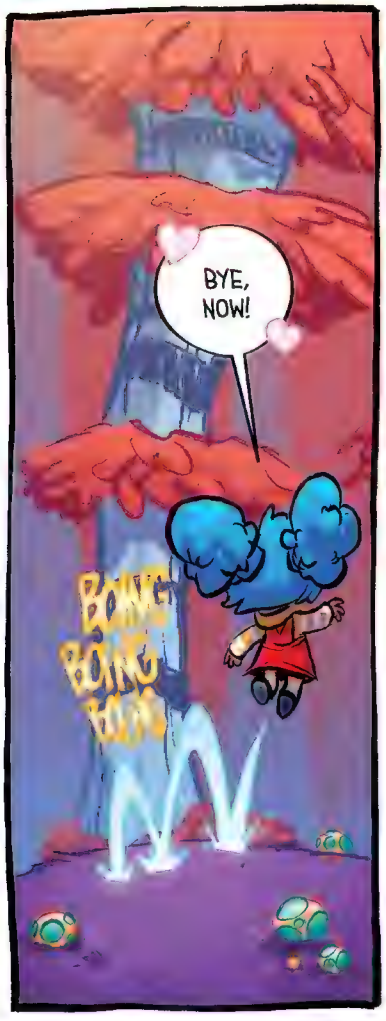
...WITHOUT YOUR PRETTY LITTLE HEAD!

YOU ARE JUST TOO FUNNY, SILLY GOOSE. BUT IF YOU WANT TO PLAY...

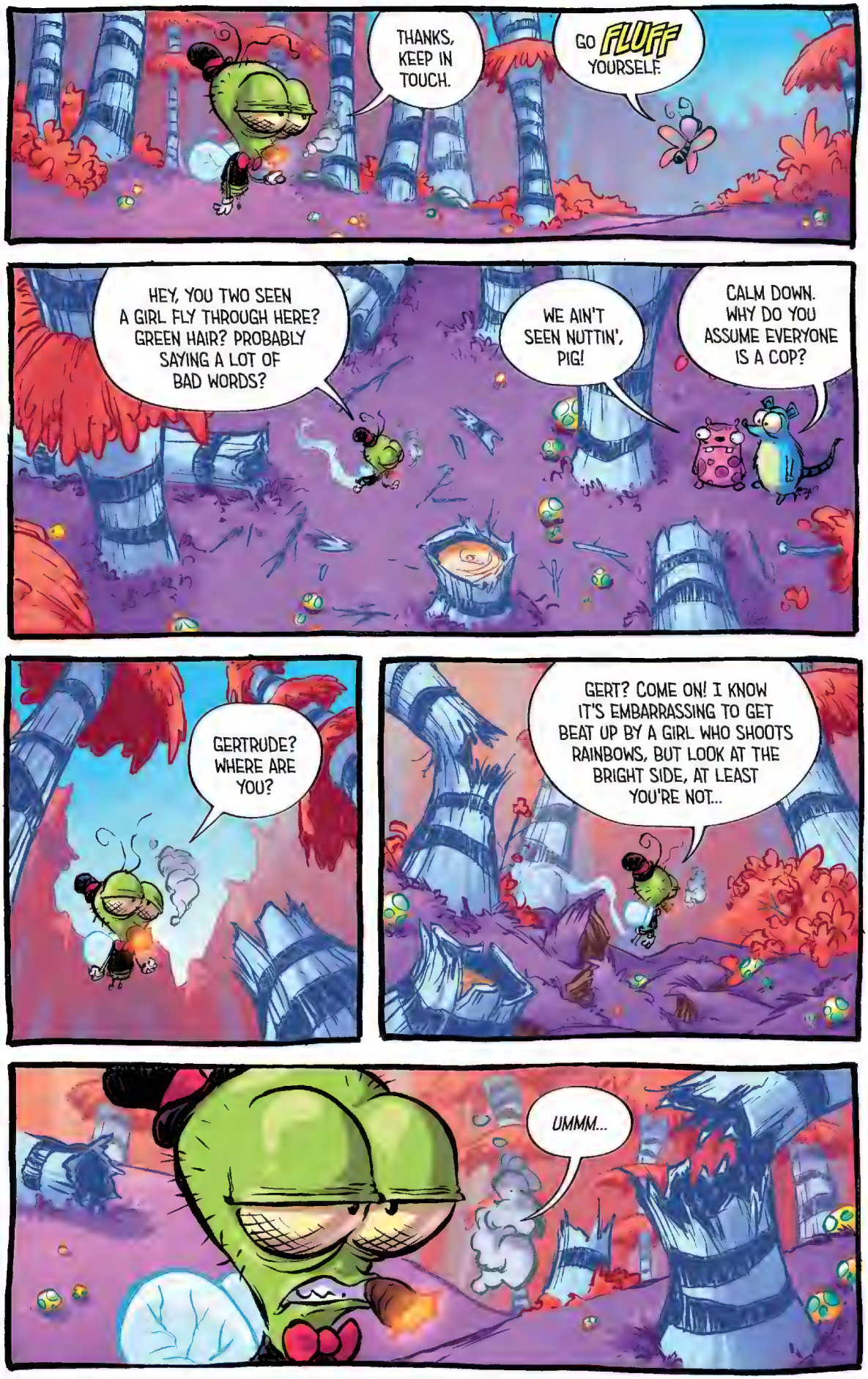
...THEN WE CAN PLAY! HEE-HEE!




GOLLY! THAT WAS SO MUCH FUN!


BYE, NOW!
BOING BOING BOING

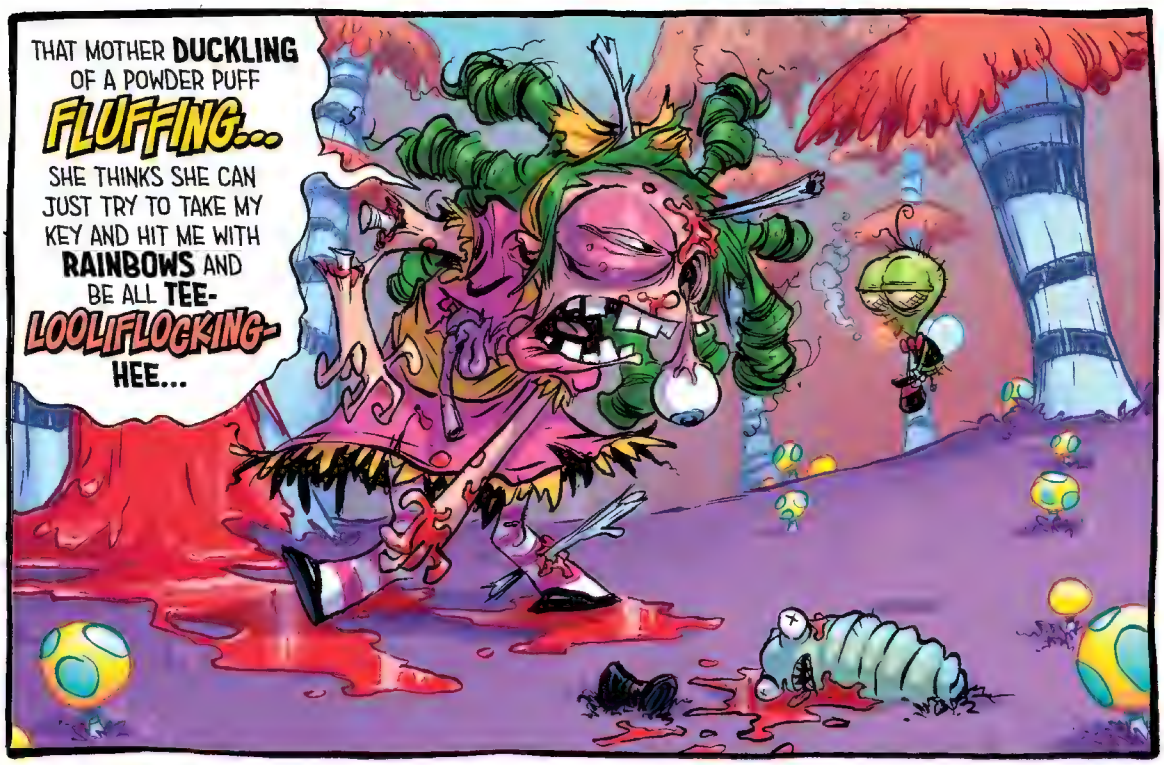
HELLO, LADY.
YOU LOOK LIKE REFRIED GOLEM LOGS, LARRIGON.

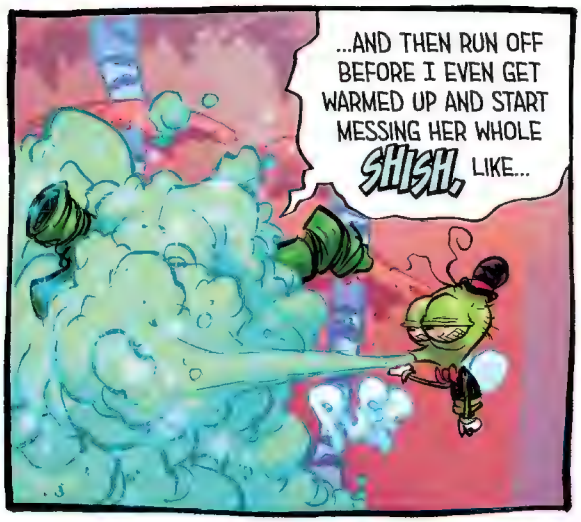

THANKS, KEEP IN TOUCH.
GO FLUFF YOURSELF.
HEY, YOU TWO SEEN A GIRL FLY THROUGH HERE? GREEN HAIR? PROBABLY SAYING A LOT OF BAD WORDS?
WE AIN'T SEEN NUTTIN', PIG!
CALM DOWN. WHY DO YOU ASSUME EVERYONE IS A COP?
GERTRUDE? WHERE ARE YOU?
GERT? COME ON! I KNOW IT'S EMBARRASSING TO GET BEAT UP BY A GIRL WHO SHOOTS RAINBOWS, BUT LOOK AT THE BRIGHT SIDE, AT LEAST YOU'RE NOT...
UMMM...

...DEAD.

FOUR

GOOD DAY, READER. IT'S NICE OF YOU TO JOIN ME FOR A STORY TODAY.
I HAVE QUITE A DOOZY LINED UP.
MR. GRUBBINS...
...YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW MUCH I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO HEARING THIS ONE.
YOU WANT A DRINK?
NO THANK YOU, SIR. GUILD POLICY: NO PARTAKING OF MIND-ALTERING SUBSTANCES WHILE ON THE JOB.
RIGHT, RIGHT. MY BAD.
GO ON, DO YOUR THING.
AHEM
ONCE UPON A TIME, THERE WAS A GIRL NAMED GERTRUDE WHO SEEMED TO HAVE MET A GRIM FATE.
BUT TO THE DISMAY OF A CERTAIN GUIDE THAT WOULD BENEFIT FROM HER DEMISE, IT ONLY SEEMED THAT WAY.
SHE WAS A BIT WORSE FOR WEAR, BUT GERTRUDE WAS VERY MUCH--
...ALIVE.
SPLOOSH


THAT MOTHER DUCKLING OF A POWDER PUFF FLUFFING...
SHE THINKS SHE CAN JUST TRY TO TAKE MY KEY AND HIT ME WITH RAINBOWS AND BE ALL TEE-LOOLIFLOCKING-HEE...

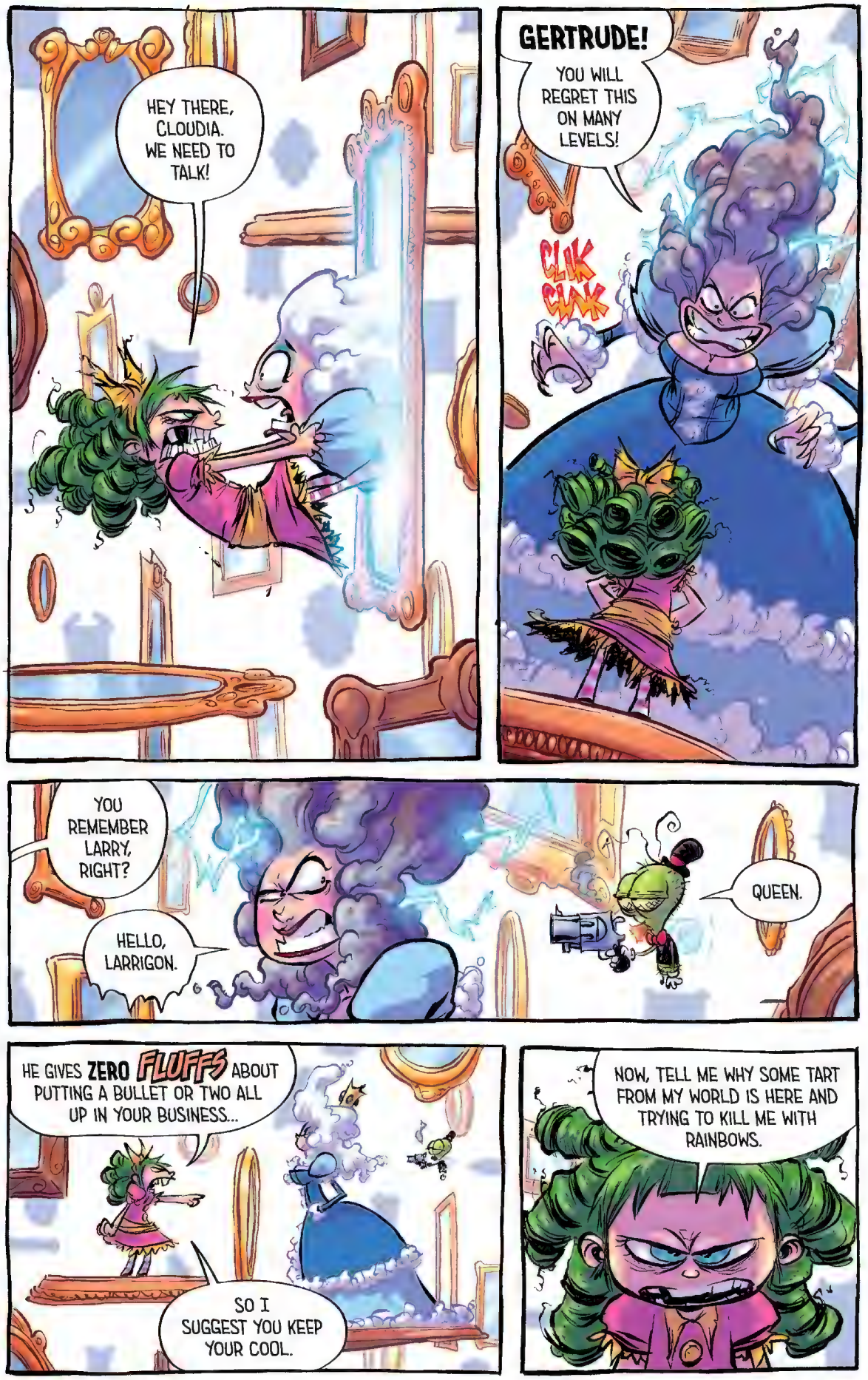

...AND THEN RUN OFF BEFORE I EVEN GET WARMED UP AND START MESSING HER WHOLE SHISH. LIKE...

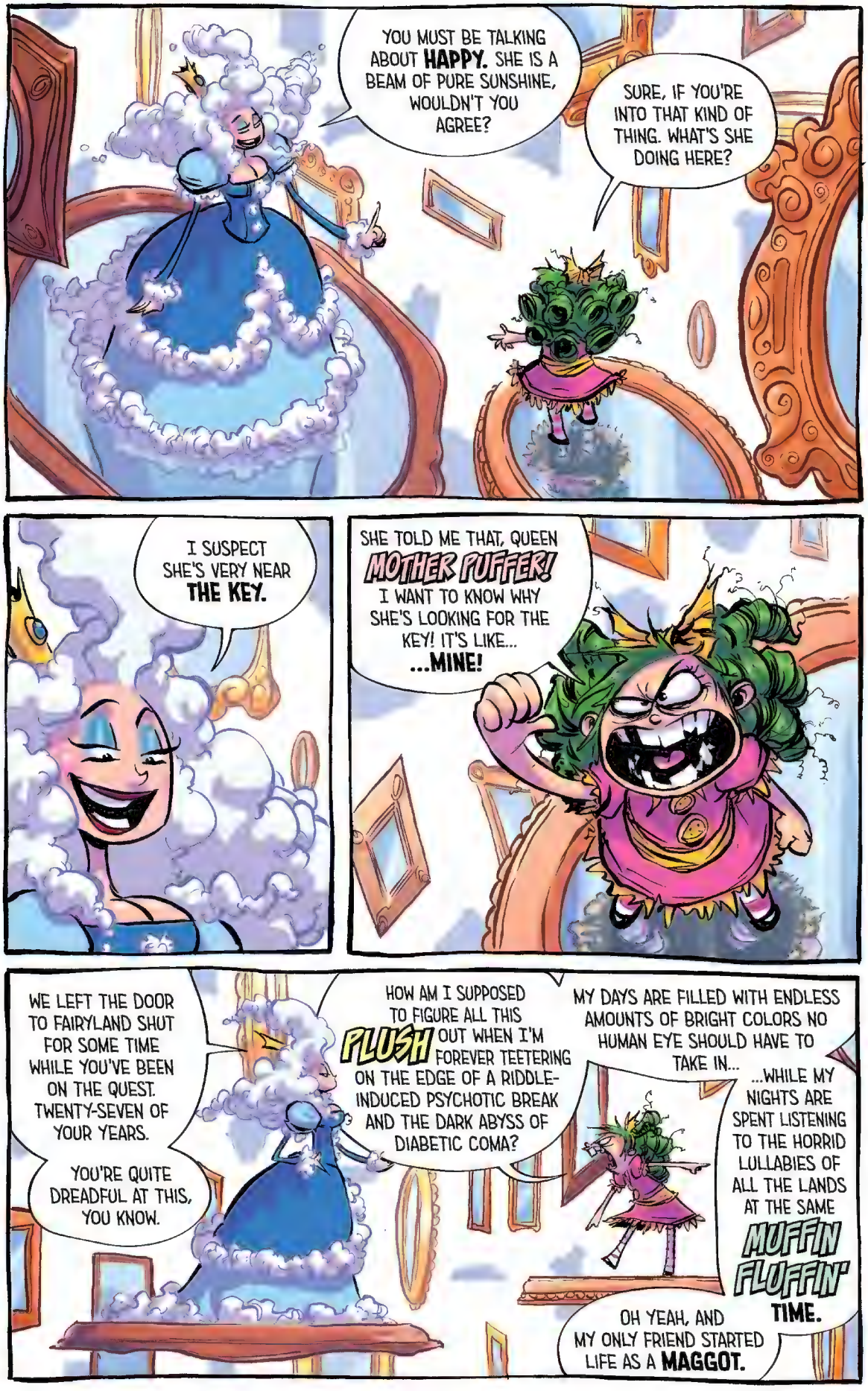
...THE BOSS THAT I AM. YOU KNOW WHAT I'M SAYING, LARRY?
RARELY.

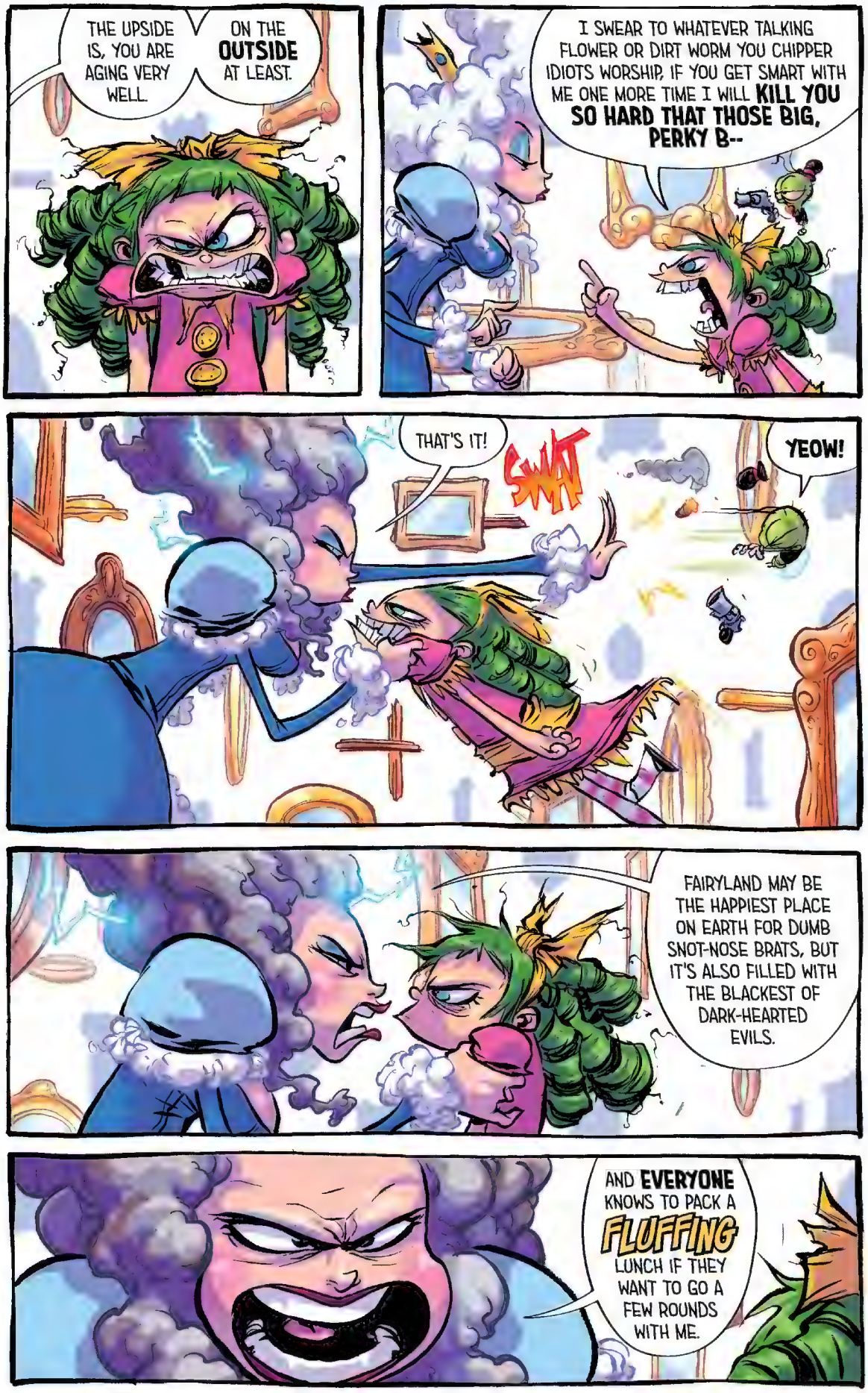
WHATEVER.
DO YOU STILL HAVE THAT THING THAT WE GOT FROM THE GUY THAT TAKES YOU TO THE PLACE WITH ALL THE THINGIES?
THE VANITY GATE?
THAT'S IT.

I NEED TO HAVE A TALK WITH AN OLD FRIEND.

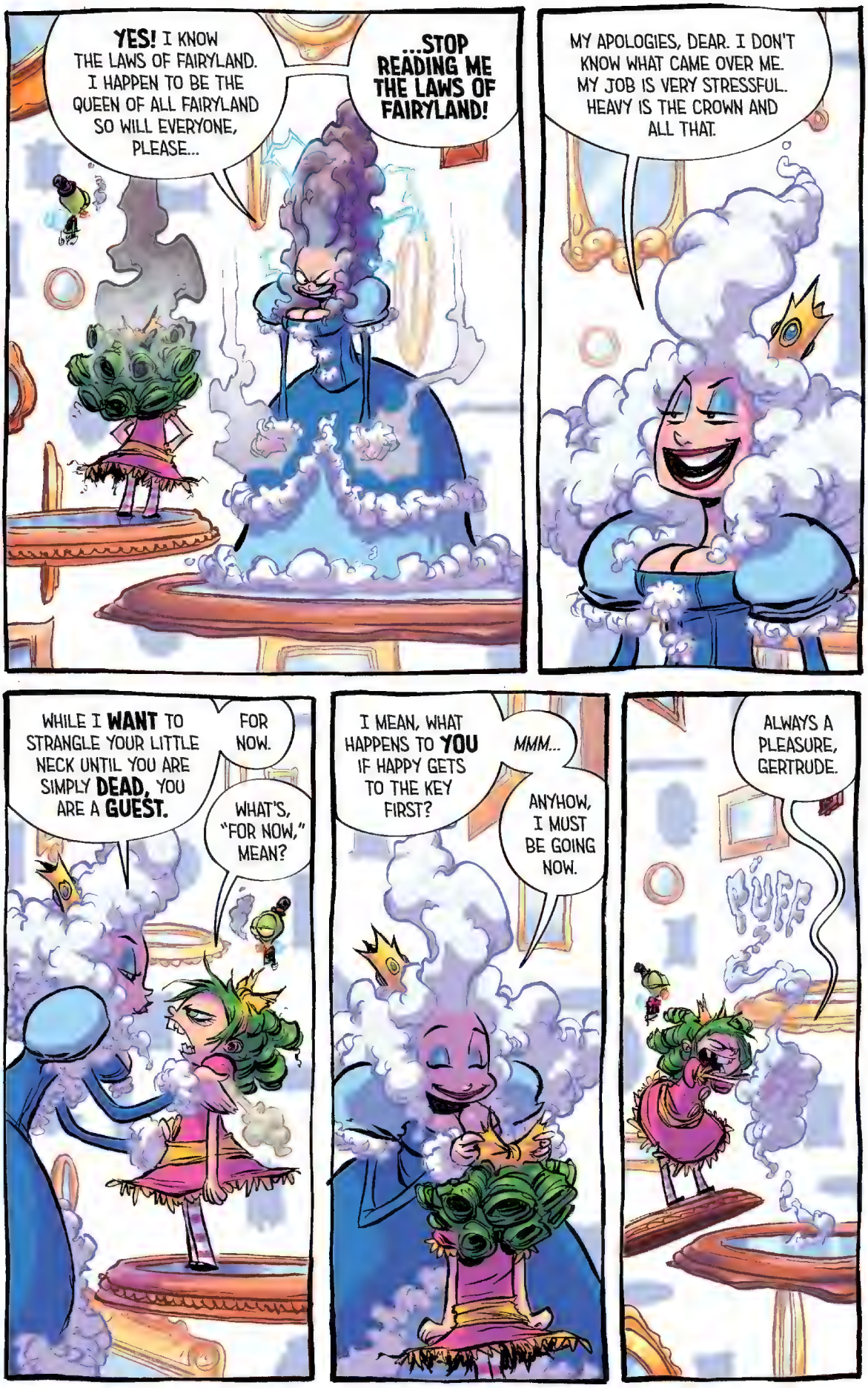
WHAT WERE YOU THINKING THIS TIME?
I HAVEN'T SETTLED MY MIND ON ANYTHING, DORIS. CAN YOU SHOW ME A FEW OPTIONS?
SURE THING, HONEY.
WE CAN GO BIG...
OR DOOPY...
OR LOOP-TO-LOOPY.
WHAT THE--
AKK!

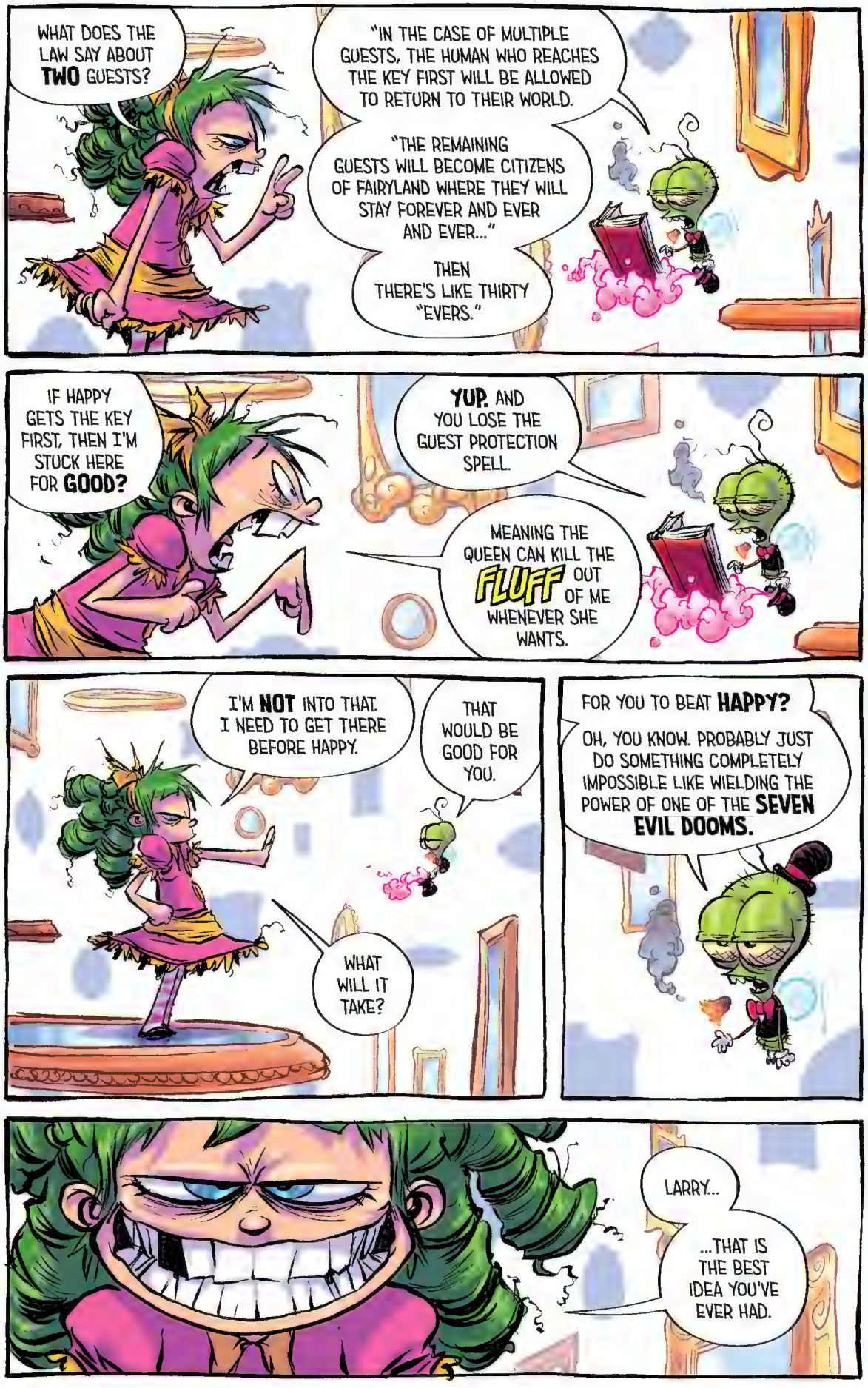

HEY THERE, CLOUDIA. WE NEED TO TALK!
GERTRUDE!
YOU WILL REGRET THIS ON MANY LEVELS!
CLIK CLAK
YOU REMEMBER LARRY, RIGHT?
HELLO, LARRIGON.
QUEEN.
HE GIVES ZERO FLUFFS ABOUT PUTTING A BULLET OR TWO ALL UP IN YOUR BUSINESS...
SO I SUGGEST YOU KEEP YOUR COOL.
NOW, TELL ME WHY SOME TART FROM MY WORLD IS HERE AND TRYING TO KILL ME WITH RAINBOWS.


YOU MUST BE TALKING ABOUT HAPPY. SHE IS A BEAM OF PURE SUNSHINE, WOULDN'T YOU AGREE?
SURE, IF YOU'RE INTO THAT KIND OF THING. WHAT'S SHE DOING HERE?
I SUSPECT SHE'S VERY NEAR THE KEY.
SHE TOLD ME THAT, QUEEN MOTHER PUFFER! I WANT TO KNOW WHY SHE'S LOOKING FOR THE KEY! IT'S LIKE... ...MINE!
WE LEFT THE DOOR TO FAIRYLAND SHUT FOR SOME TIME WHILE YOU'VE BEEN ON THE QUEST. TWENTY-SEVEN OF YOUR YEARS.
YOU'RE QUITE DREADFUL AT THIS, YOU KNOW.
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO FIGURE ALL THIS PLUSH OUT WHEN I'M FOREVER TEETERING ON THE EDGE OF A RIDDLE-INDUCED PSYCHOTIC BREAK AND THE DARK ABYSS OF DIABETIC COMA?
MY DAYS ARE FILLED WITH ENDLESS AMOUNTS OF BRIGHT COLORS NO HUMAN EYE SHOULD HAVE TO TAKE IN...
...WHILE MY NIGHTS ARE SPENT LISTENING TO THE HORRID LULLABIES OF ALL THE LANDS AT THE SAME MUFFIN FLUFFIN' TIME.
OH YEAH, AND MY ONLY FRIEND STARTED LIFE AS A MAGGOT.


THE UPSIDE IS, YOU ARE AGING VERY WELL.
ON THE OUTSIDE AT LEAST.
I SWEAR TO WHATEVER TALKING FLOWER OR DIRT WORM YOU CHIPPER IDIOTS WORSHIP, IF YOU GET SMART WITH ME ONE MORE TIME I WILL KILL YOU SO HARD THAT THOSE BIG, PERKY B--
THAT'S IT!
SWAT
YEOW!
FAIRYLAND MAY BE THE HAPPIEST PLACE ON EARTH FOR DUMB SNOT-NOSE BRATS, BUT IT'S ALSO FILLED WITH THE BLACKEST OF DARK-HEARTED EVILS.
AND EVERYONE KNOWS TO PACK A FLUFFING LUNCH IF THEY WANT TO GO A FEW ROUNDS WITH ME.

DO THEY ALSO KNOW TO PACK A GAS MASK?
'CAUSE YOUR BREATH IS B-RU-TAL!
AAAAAH!
HA HA HA!
YOU KNOW YOUR MAGIC DOESN'T WORK ON ME. WHAT'S THE RULE, LARRY?
"THE QUEEN OF FAIRYLAND MAY NOT HARM ONE SINGLE HAIR ON THE HEAD OF ANY GUEST OF FAIRYLAND."


YES! I KNOW THE LAWS OF FAIRYLAND. I HAPPEN TO BE THE QUEEN OF ALL FAIRYLAND SO WILL EVERYONE, PLEASE...
...STOP READING ME THE LAWS OF FAIRYLAND!
MY APOLOGIES, DEAR. I DON'T KNOW WHAT CAME OVER ME. MY JOB IS VERY STRESSFUL. HEAVY IS THE CROWN AND ALL THAT.
WHILE I WANT TO STRANGLE YOUR LITTLE NECK UNTIL YOU ARE SIMPLY DEAD, YOU ARE A GUEST.
FOR NOW.
WHAT'S, "FOR NOW," MEAN?
I MEAN, WHAT HAPPENS TO YOU IF HAPPY GETS TO THE KEY FIRST?
MMM...
ANYHOW, I MUST BE GOING NOW.
ALWAYS A PLEASURE, GERTRUDE.
PUFF


WHAT DOES THE LAW SAY ABOUT TWO GUESTS?
"IN THE CASE OF MULTIPLE GUESTS, THE HUMAN WHO REACHES THE KEY FIRST WILL BE ALLOWED TO RETURN TO THEIR WORLD.
"THE REMAINING GUESTS WILL BECOME CITIZENS OF FAIRYLAND WHERE THEY WILL STAY FOREVER AND EVER AND EVER..."
THEN THERE'S LIKE THIRTY "EVERS."
IF HAPPY GETS THE KEY FIRST, THEN I'M STUCK HERE FOR GOOD?
YUP. AND YOU LOSE THE GUEST PROTECTION SPELL.
MEANING THE QUEEN CAN KILL THE FLUFF OUT OF ME WHENEVER SHE WANTS.
I'M NOT INTO THAT. I NEED TO GET THERE BEFORE HAPPY.
THAT WOULD BE GOOD FOR YOU.
WHAT WILL IT TAKE?
FOR YOU TO BEAT HAPPY?
OH, YOU KNOW. PROBABLY JUST DO SOMETHING COMPLETELY IMPOSSIBLE LIKE WIELDING THE POWER OF ONE OF THE SEVEN EVIL DOOMS.
LARRY...
...THAT IS THE BEST IDEA YOU'VE EVER HAD.

YOU KNOW THIS ISN'T GONNA GO WELL FOR US, RIGHT?
SURE IT WILL. BESIDES, HAPPY IS STILL **NEW** TO THIS PLACE. IT'S NOT **ALL** GOING TO BE SO EASY FOR HER.

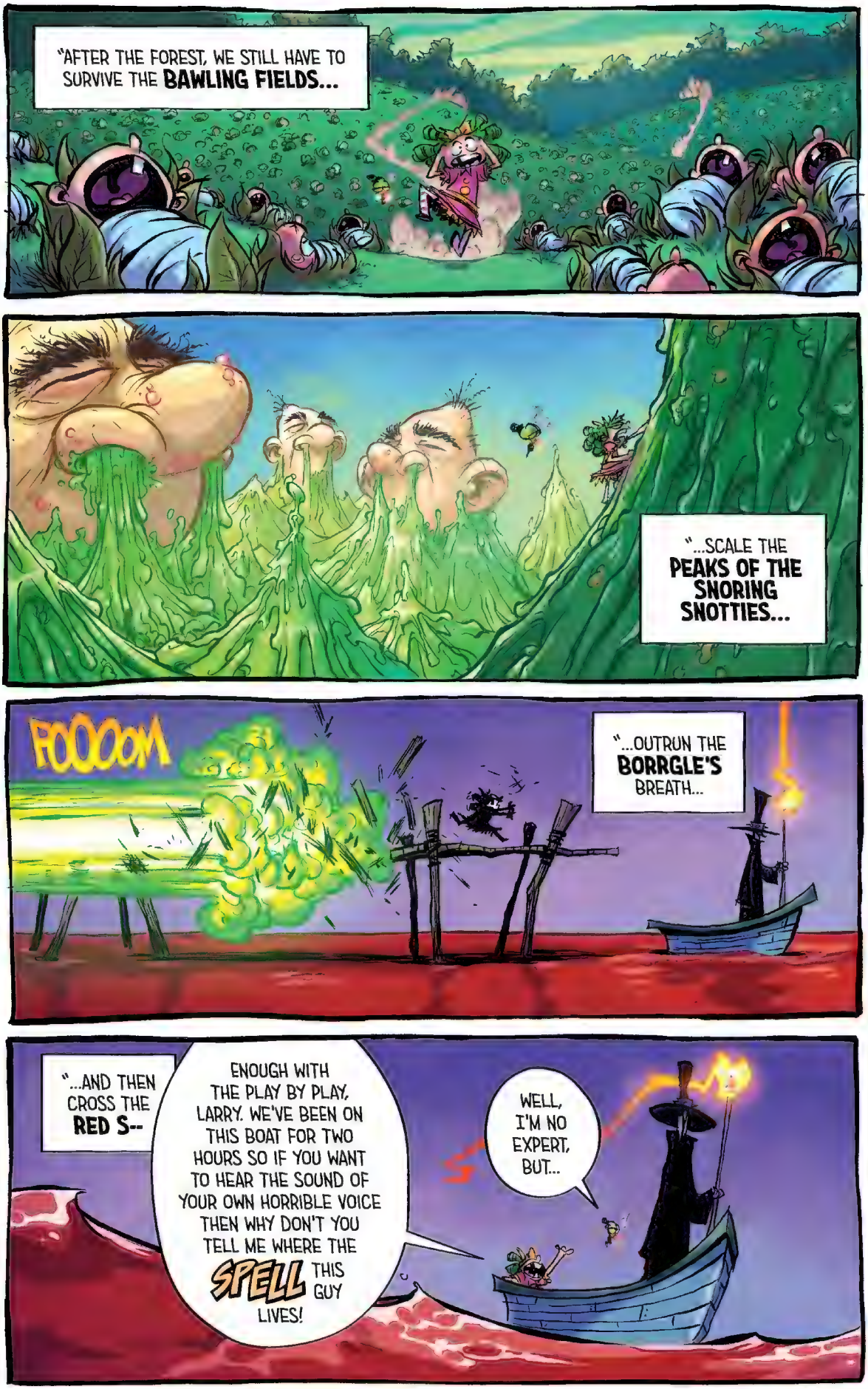
ELSEWHERE.
YOU HAVE LIFTED MY CURSE AND FOR THAT I GIVE YOU THE THREAD OF DOTSEYE.
TAKE IT NORTH TO **BURR,** AND TELL HIM A SECRET...
AWESOME!

"...AND HE WILL BRING YOU TO THE EDGE OF **WINTER'S TEETH.**

"FROM THERE, THE **SNOWZIES** WILL CARRY YOU THROUGH THEIR LAND AND INTO THE NEXT.

"ONCE IN PILLOPOLIS, USE YOUR GIFT.
"AND WHEN YOU REACH THE CASTLE...
"...USE YOUR GIFT ONCE AGAIN.
"DOT WILL SEE THAT YOU ARE REWARDED."

MEANWHILE.
I'D LIKE TO REITERATE THAT SEEKING OUT ONE OF THE SEVEN EVIL DOOMS WAS NOT AN ACTUAL SUGGESTION. WE CAN STILL TURN BACK.
SACK UP, MAN. I BET THE FOREST OF DOOMED TREES IS JUST A NAME TO SCARE PEOPLE OFF. I BET THERE AIN'T NOTHING BUT HARMLESS SQUIRRELS AND CUTE CHIPMUNKS IN THERE.
DON'T SAY A WORD, LARRY.
NOT ONE WORD.


"AFTER THE FOREST, WE STILL HAVE TO SURVIVE THE BAWLING FIELDS...
"...SCALE THE PEAKS OF THE SNORING SNOTTIES...
FOOOOM
"...OUTRUN THE BORRGLE'S BREATH...
"...AND THEN CROSS THE RED S--
ENOUGH WITH THE PLAY BY PLAY, LARRY. WE'VE BEEN ON THIS BOAT FOR TWO HOURS SO IF YOU WANT TO HEAR THE SOUND OF YOUR OWN HORRIBLE VOICE THEN WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME WHERE THE SPELL THIS GUY LIVES!
WELL, I'M NO EXPERT, BUT...

...MAYBE IN THAT CREEPY CASTLE ON TOP OF THAT GIANT SKULL ROCK.

WHOA.

YOU WANT TO FLY ME UP?
NO.
WILL YOU DO IT ANYWAY?
NO.
I HATE YOU.
YUP.
TURN BACK NOW, PUTRID CHILD.
NAH. WE WANT TO GO IN THERE. OPEN UP.
I AM SKULLKILL THE BLOODBRINGER. TURN BACK NOW OR FEEL MY WRATH.
OH NO, NOT YOUR...
...WRATH!

SUBTLE. REAL SUBTLE.
HELLO! WE'RE HERE TO TALK TO ONE OF THE EVIL DOOMS!
KNOCK KNOCK KNOCKITY KNOCK
I AM STILL YOUR GUIDE, AND IT'S MY RESPONSIBILITY TO TELL YOU THAT GIANT EVIL DOORS THAT OPEN ON THEIR OWN SHOULD **NEVER** BE WALKED THROUGH.
DO YOU MEAN, LIKE THIS?
OKAY, BUT YOU'RE NOT GOING TO LIKE WHAT YOU...
...SEE.

WELCOME TO MY REALM OF **SKULLLLLLLLS,** GERTRUDE.

I WONDER IF THEY HAVE THE PHRASE, "ON THE NOSE," IN THE REALM OF **SKULLLLLLS.**

DID YOU SAY SOME-THING?

UM, NO. JUST ADMIRING THE DECOR. VERY CREATIVE.

HOW DID YOU KNOW MY NAME?
I AM LORD DARKETH DEADDEATH...
...AND I AM THE NOT OF ALL THAT IS.
UM... YEAH.
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT ANY OF THAT MEANS.
IT MEANS I KNOW EVERYTHING BECAUSE I ALLOW IT TO BE...
...AND WHEN I DECIDE IT SHOULD NOT BE, THEN IT WILL BE NOT.
GOTCHA, YOU'RE AN EVIL POET WITH CONTROL ISSUES.
SO, YOU KNOW ALL ABOUT THIS HAPPY CHARACTER AND HOW SHE'S TRYING TO FIND MY KEY AND MAKE ME ALL STUCK HERE FOREVER?
I DO. IT'S QUITE THE PLOT TWIST.

THEN YOU KNOW I'M GONNA ASK IF I COULD, MAYBE, UM, BORROW YOUR EVIL POWERS THEN USE THEM TO SMASH THAT LITTLE SPRITE'S GIANT DOE EYES INTO DOUGH SO I CAN GET TO THE KEY FIRST?
AGAIN, I KNOW EVERYTHING. LIKE, ALL THE STUFF.
THEN... CAN I HAVE 'EM?
OF COURSE YOU CAN.
REALLY?
SURE. WITH ONE SMALL CAVEAT.

AND WHAT'S THE...

LARRY, WHAT'S "CAVEAT" MEAN?

CRACK

LIKE A CONDITION TO THE DEAL.

RIGHT.

WHAT'S THE **CAVEAT?**

SIMPLE. MAKE YOUR WAY THROUGH MY **DUNGEON** AND PROVE YOURSELF WORTHY.

LISTEN, I'VE GOT A BIT OF A HEADACHE AND I TWEAKED MY BACK YESTERDAY WHEN WE WERE DOING THE STUFF AND THINGS, SO...

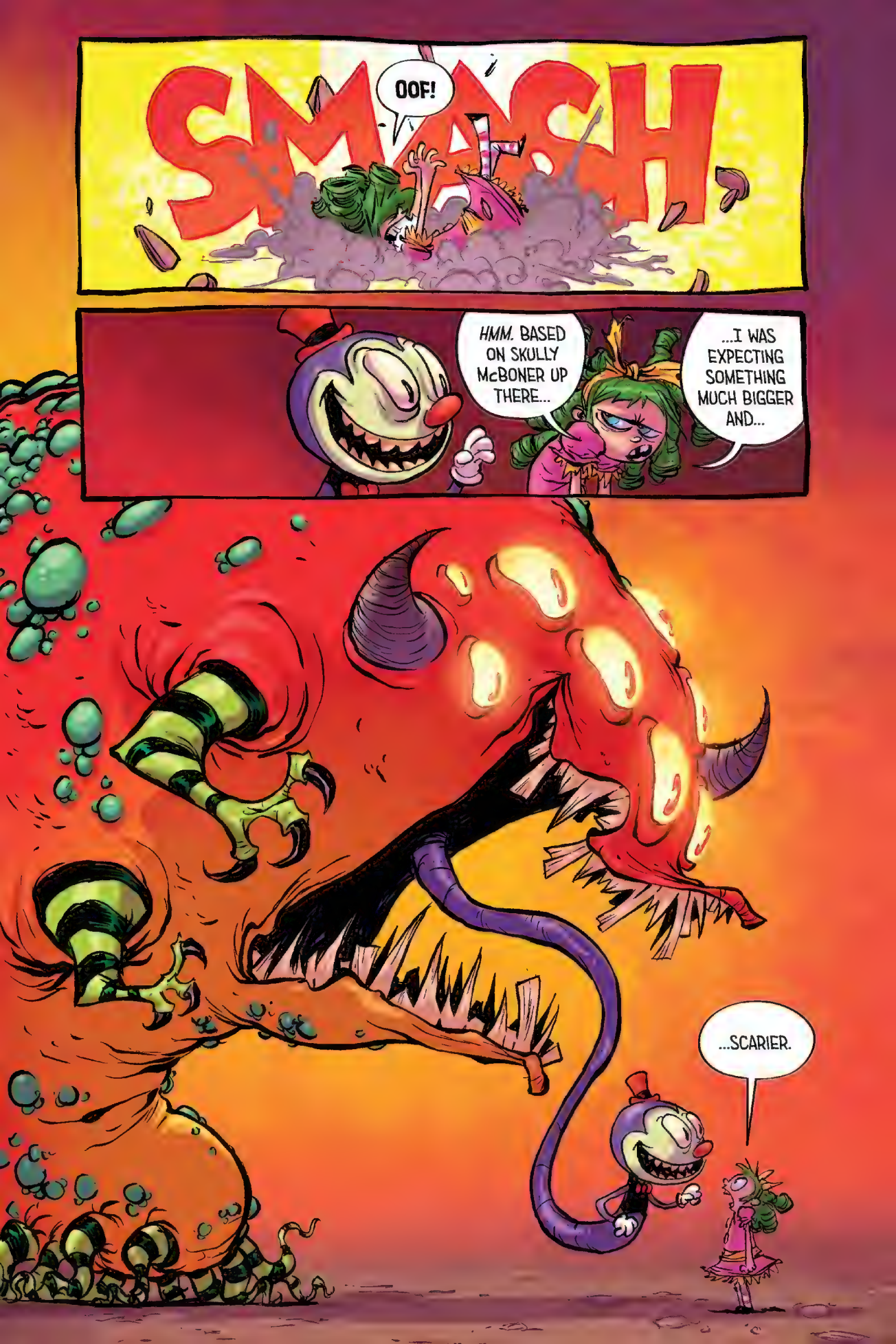
I'M GOING TO SIT THIS ONE OUT.

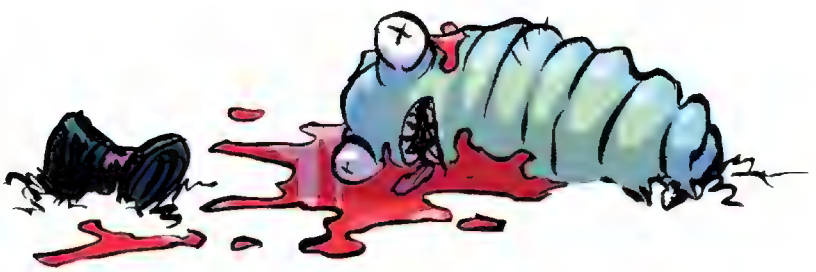
EAT A **DIP,** LARRY.

GRUMBLE

OKAY, I'LL DO THAT. GOOD LUCK!

WOOSH

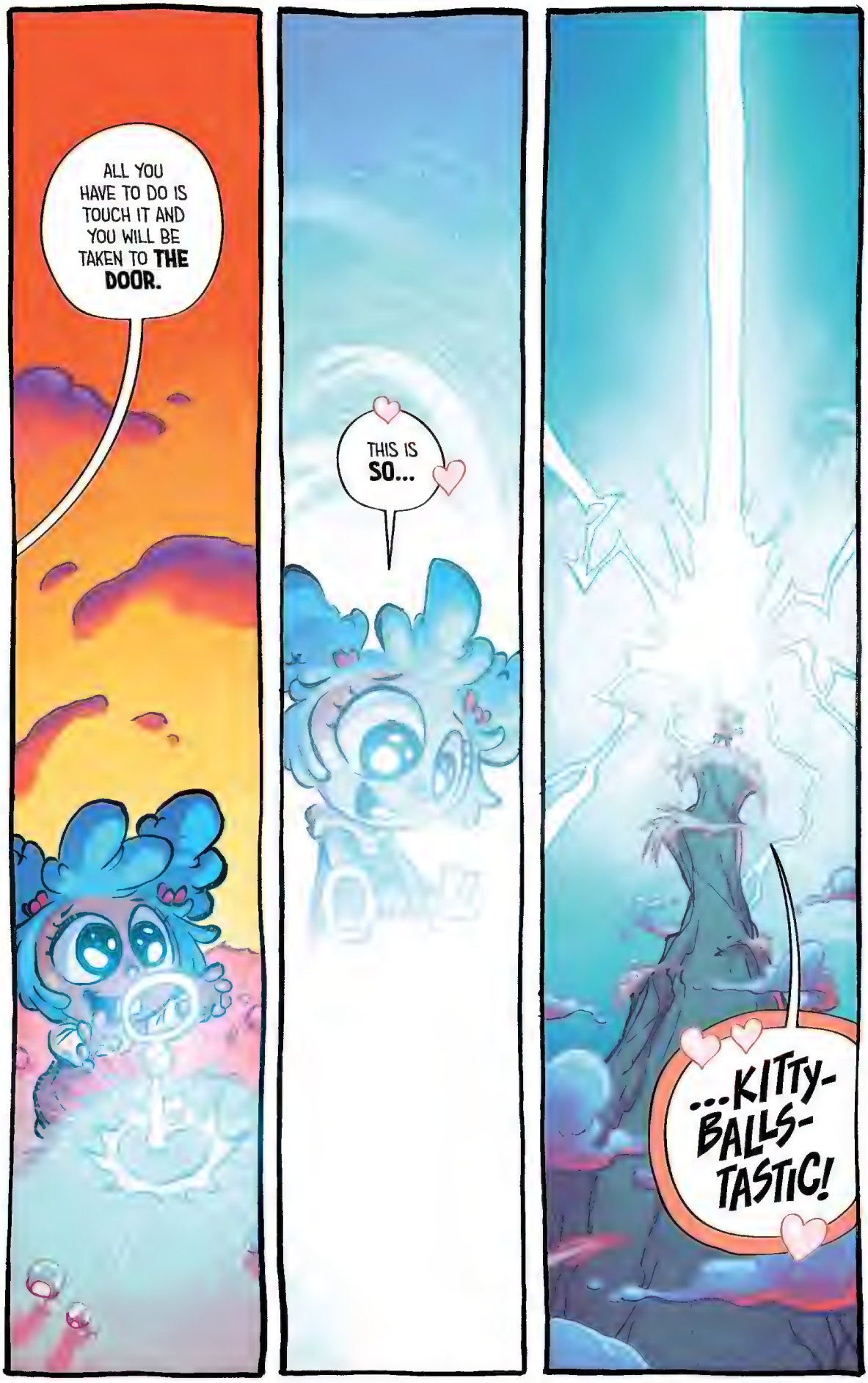

SMASH
OOF!
HMM. BASED ON SKULLY McBONER UP THERE...
...I WAS EXPECTING SOMETHING MUCH BIGGER AND...
...SCARIER.



FIVE

ONCE UPON A TIME, THERE WAS A GIRL NAMED HAPPY WHO WAS ON A GRAND ADVENTURE IN THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF FAIRYLAND.
SHE WAS SENT ON AN EPIC QUEST ACROSS THE PLAINS OF TIME...
...AND UNDER THE JELLY SEAS.

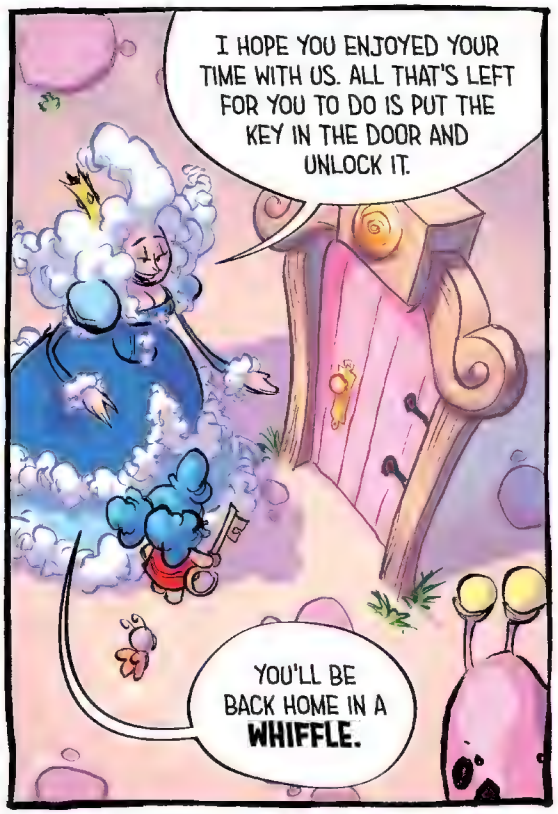
AFTER SEEKING SACRED TRINKETS FOR THE TROLLS OF BRIDGETOPIA, AND FINDING LOST LOVE FOR THE SYRUP ORCS IN THE PANCAKE CAVES...
...SHE HAD REACHED...
...THE FINAL TREASURE...
LADY, IS THAT WHAT I THINK IT IS?
YES, HAPPY. YOU HAVE FOUND THE KEY.

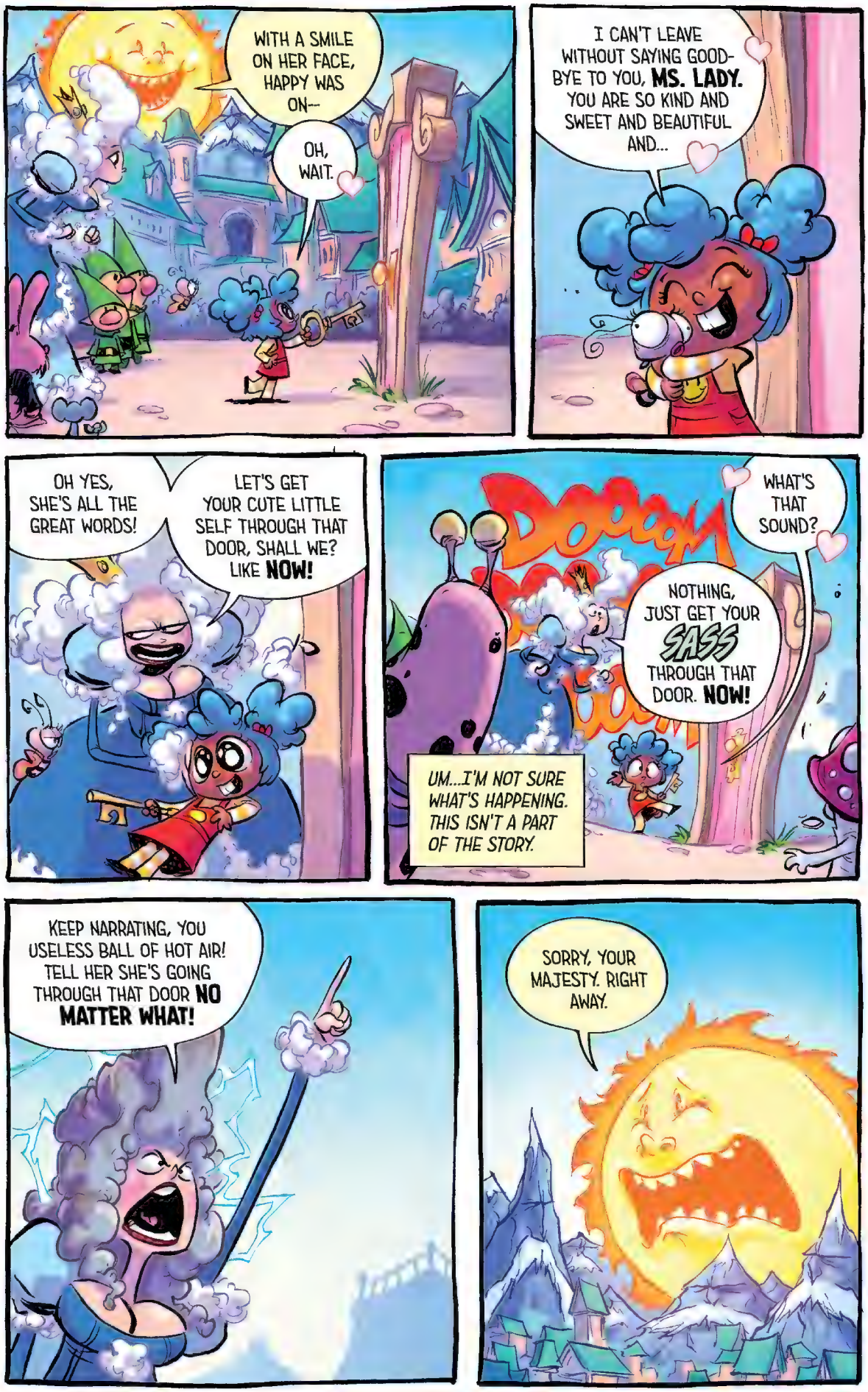

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS TOUCH IT AND YOU WILL BE TAKEN TO **THE DOOR.**
THIS IS **SO...**
...KITTY-BALLS-TASTIC!

OH LOOK, IT'S ALL MY FRIENDS!

THE FAIRYLANDERS WERE FILLED WITH JOY AS THEY GATHERED TO WISH HER FAREWELL.

NONE WERE MORE PLEASED THAN **QUEEN CLOUDIA.**
YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW HAPPY YOU'VE MADE ME, **HAPPY.**
TEE-HEE! YOU SAID MY NAME **TWICEICES.**


I HOPE YOU ENJOYED YOUR TIME WITH US. ALL THAT'S LEFT FOR YOU TO DO IS PUT THE KEY IN THE DOOR AND UNLOCK IT.
YOU'LL BE BACK HOME IN A **WHIFFLE.**


WITH A SMILE ON HER FACE, HAPPY WAS ON--
OH, WAIT.
I CAN'T LEAVE WITHOUT SAYING GOOD-BYE TO YOU, MS. LADY. YOU ARE SO KIND AND SWEET AND BEAUTIFUL AND...
OH YES, SHE'S ALL THE GREAT WORDS!
LET'S GET YOUR CUTE LITTLE SELF THROUGH THAT DOOR, SHALL WE? LIKE NOW!
DOOOOM
WHAT'S THAT SOUND?
NOTHING, JUST GET YOUR SASS THROUGH THAT DOOR. NOW!
UM...I'M NOT SURE WHAT'S HAPPENING. THIS ISN'T A PART OF THE STORY.
KEEP NARRATING, YOU USELESS BALL OF HOT AIR! TELL HER SHE'S GOING THROUGH THAT DOOR NO MATTER WHAT!
SORRY, YOUR MAJESTY. RIGHT AWAY.

THERE WAS A MIGHTY RUMBLE UNDER THEIR FEET...

I'M TOTALLY KINDA **SCARED!**

TELL HER SHE'S NOT SCARED! **TELL HER!**

BUT...BUT THAT WOULD NOT SCARE HAPPY, FOR SHE WAS NOT LIKE THE WRETCHED ***GERTRUDE*** WHO--

KRACK-OOM

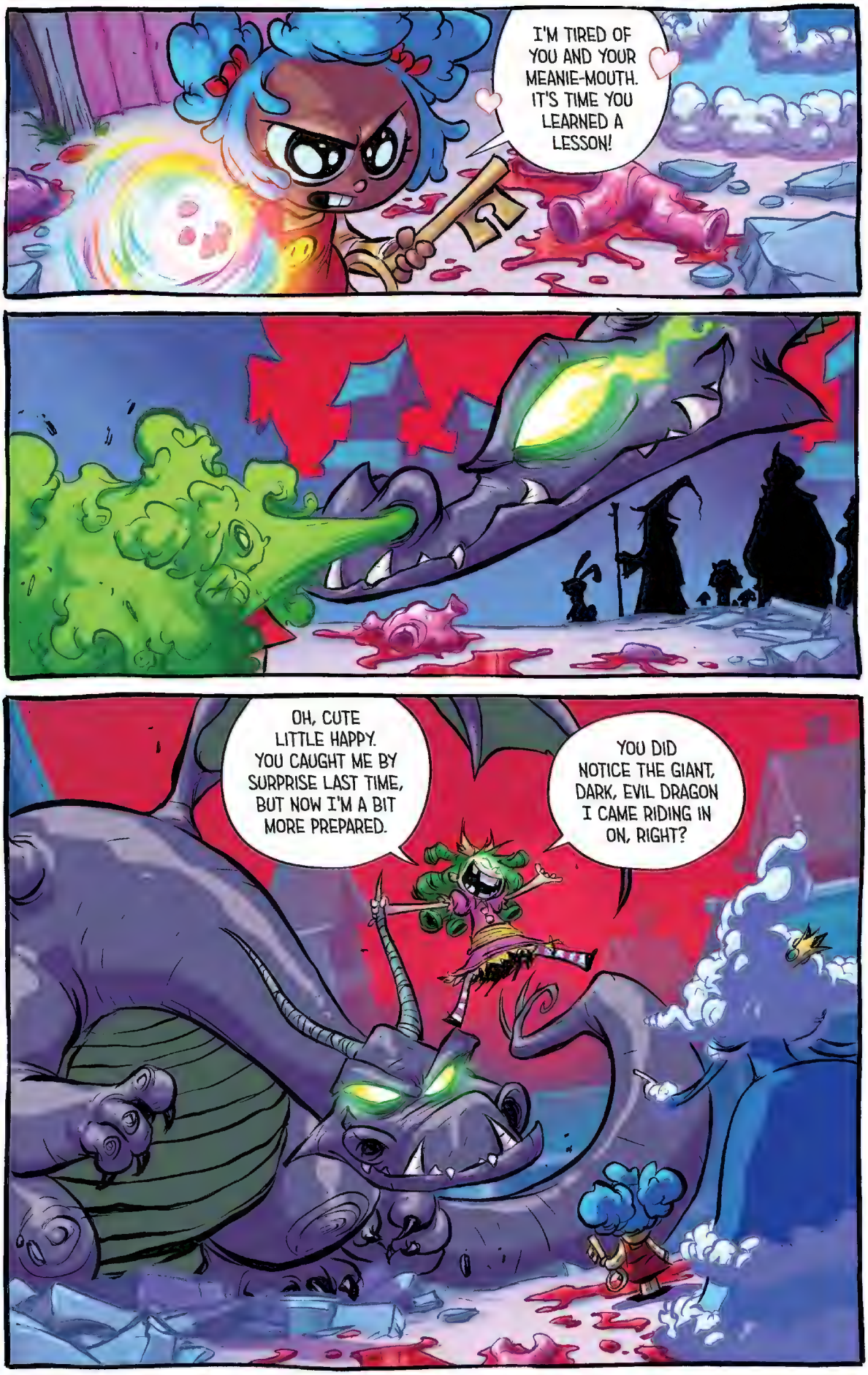
...HOLY MOTHER F--

NO! NO! NO!

THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING!

THIS IS SO GRRRRROSS!

WHAT'S UP, MUFFIN FLUFFERS?!


I'M TIRED OF YOU AND YOUR MEANIE-MOUTH. IT'S TIME YOU LEARNED A LESSON!
OH, CUTE LITTLE HAPPY. YOU CAUGHT ME BY SURPRISE LAST TIME, BUT NOW I'M A BIT MORE PREPARED.
YOU DID NOTICE THE GIANT, DARK, EVIL DRAGON I CAME RIDING IN ON, RIGHT?

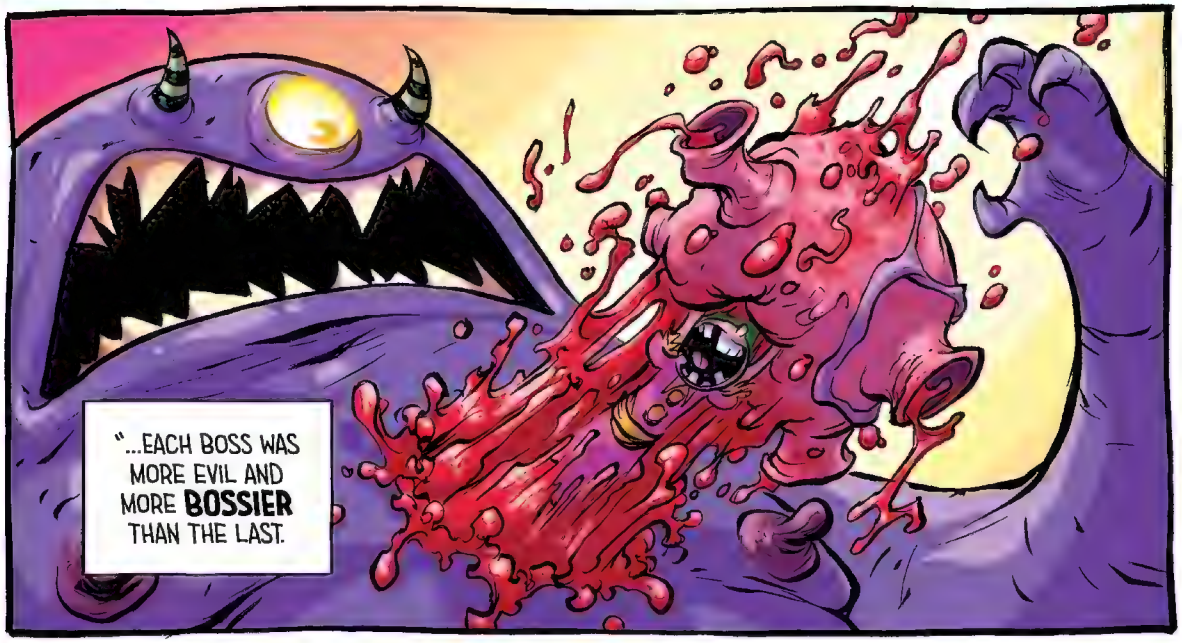
THIS IS AGAINST ALL KNOWN RULES OF FAIRYLAND. HOW DID YOU GET THIS KIND OF POWER?

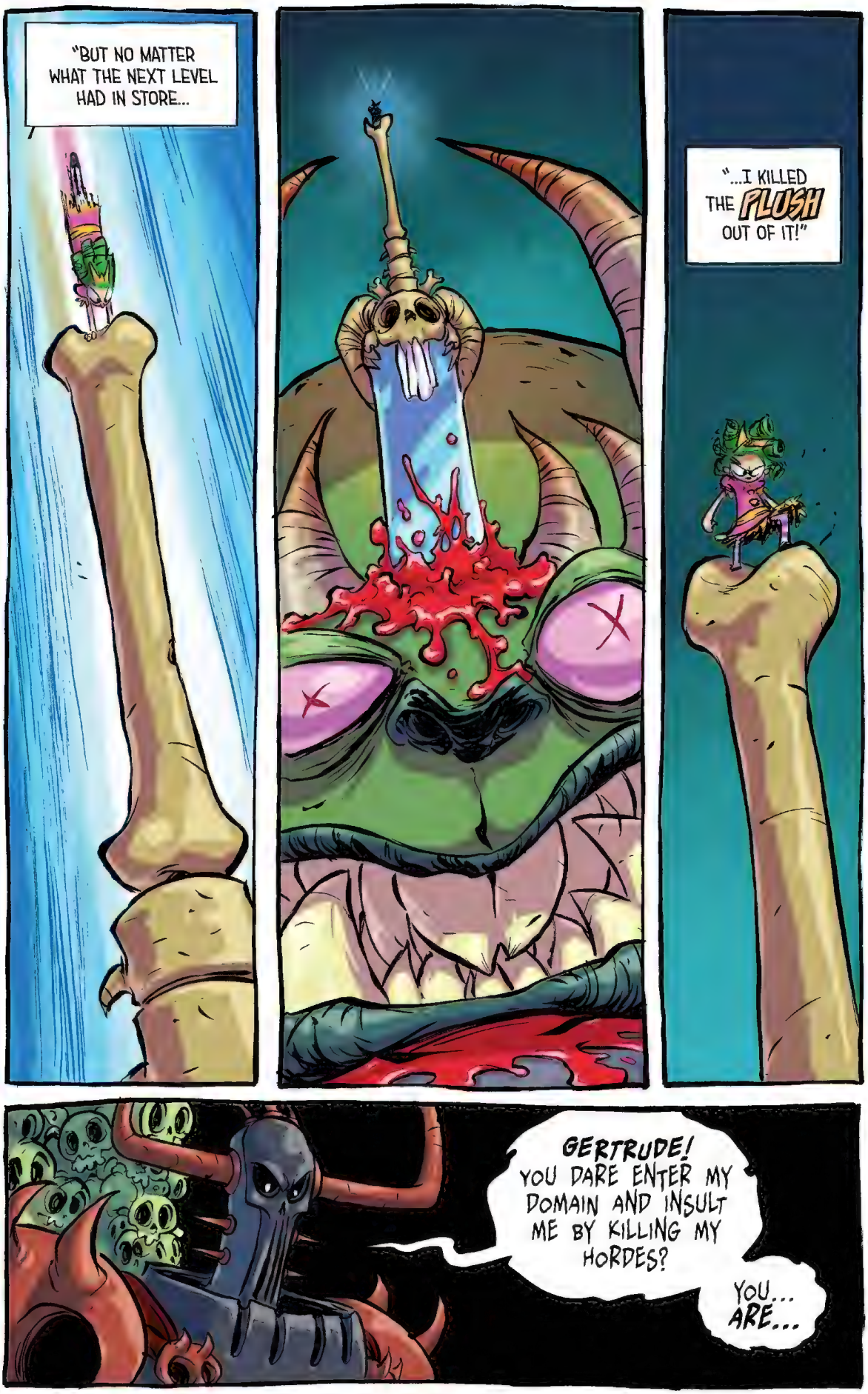
SIMPLE...

...I JUST DROPPED BY THE LANDS OF **NOT** AND ASKED MY OLD PAL, **DARKETH DEADDEATH,** FOR A LITTLE HELP.

"BUT FIRST, I HAD TO PROVE MYSELF.

"I FOUGHT MY WAY THROUGH HIS DUNGEON...


"...EACH BOSS WAS MORE EVIL AND MORE **BOSSIER** THAN THE LAST.


"BUT NO MATTER WHAT THE NEXT LEVEL HAD IN STORE...
"...I KILLED THE PLUSH OUT OF IT!"
GERTRUDE! YOU DARE ENTER MY DOMAIN AND INSULT ME BY KILLING MY HORDES?
YOU... ARE...

...LIKE THE DAUGHTER I NEVER HAD.
GO FORTH AND USE MY POWERS AS YOU PLEASE. MAKE ME PROUD.
OH, I WILL.

AND THAT BRINGS US HERE. I GOT THE SUPER EVIL, KILL-YOU-SO-HARD POWERS...
...AND YOU GOT MY KEY.
FINDERS KEEPERS!
YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE THAT LEARNED NEW TRICKS SINCE WE MET IN THE WOODS!

TIME FOR YOU TO GO **BYE-BYSIES!**

HUH?

OH YEAH, IT'S LIKE **THAT!**

MY TURN!
KRAK
HAPPY, RUN!
HELP! THE FLOOR IS--
--EATING ME...!
THERE YOU ARE.

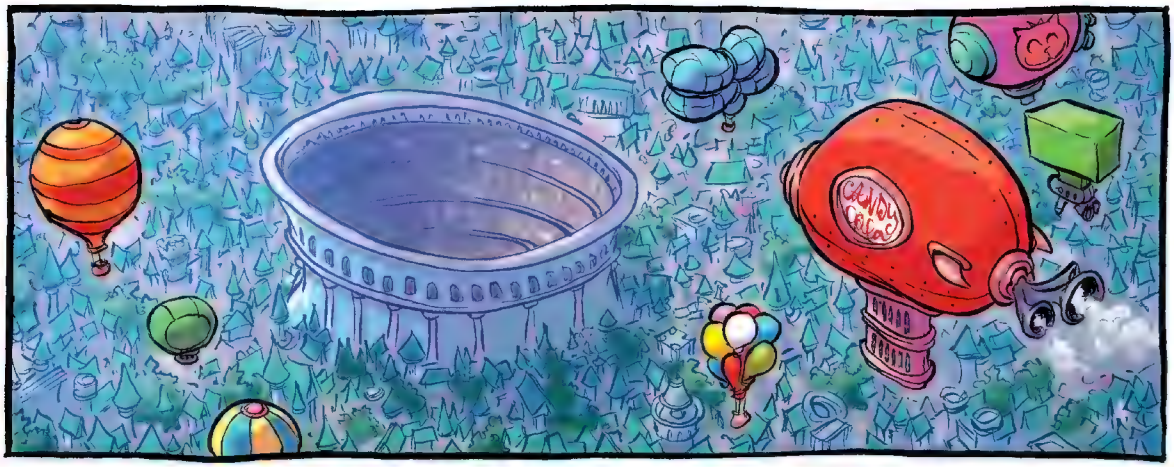
ALL THESE YEARS AND I'M FINALLY HOLDING IT IN MY HANDS.
WHY DON'T WE STOP HOLDING IT AND START USING IT.
NICE OF YOU TO FINALLY SHOW UP AFTER I DID ALL THE HARD WORK.
OH MY. DID YOU EVER THINK THIS DAY WOULD COME, LARRY?
SADLY, NO.
I WON'T LET YOU RUIN THIS MOMENT, YOU GROSS LITTLE PIECE OF FLIP. IT'S JUST TOO SPECIAL. I'M REALLY...
...GOING HOME.
I KNOW YOU ALL ARE GOING TO MISS ME TERRIBLY, BUT I NEED YOU TO FIGHT THE URGE TO GET ALL TEARY EYED AND TRY TO HUG ME AND STUFF.
GERTRUDE, I AM INDEED SAD...
...THAT YOUR GOOD-BYE DOESN'T CONTAIN MORE DEATH!
FOR ONCE, YOU MAKE A GOOD POINT.
WHAT? NO! DO NOT...

IS THIS ENOUGH DEATH FOR YOU?!
...KILL THE QUEEN!

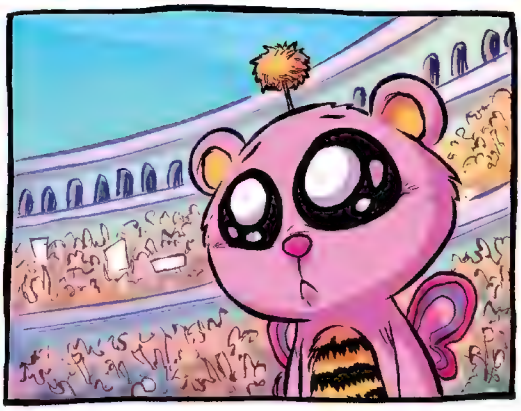
HA HA HA!
THAT MADE EVERY SINGLE YEAR I'VE BEEN HERE WORTH IT!
SLAM
WHAT THE--?
THE KEY!
NO!
PLEF
WHERE'D IT GO, LARRY? WHAT'S GOING ON? WHY CAN'T I GO HOME?
"UPON THE DEATH OF THE KING OR QUEEN, THE ONE WHO DEALS THE FATAL BLOW MUST TAKE UP THE CROWN AND BECOME...

"...THE QUEEN OF..."
...FLUFFING FAIRYLAND.

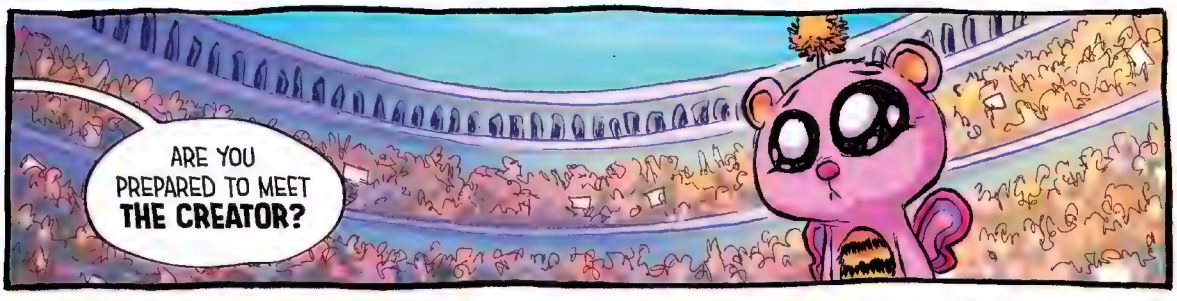
SIX



FOR CENTURIES MY PEOPLE HAVE HAD TO STOMACH THE EXISTENCE OF YOUR KIND.



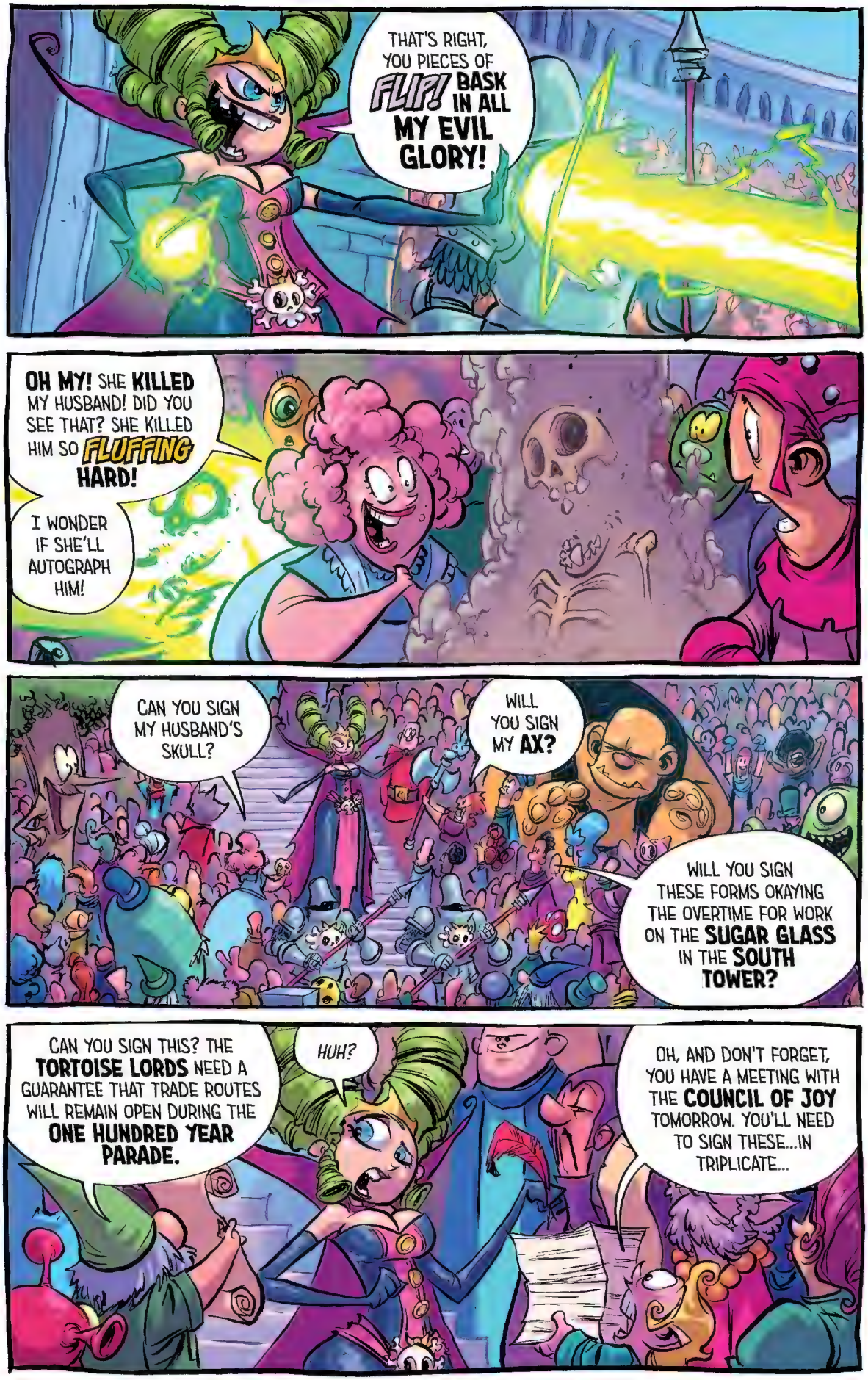
TODAY, I WILL SPILL YOUR BLOOD AND PLACE YOUR ENTRAILS ON MY NECK LIKE THE MEDALS BESTOWED TO OUR WARRIORS UPON RETURNING FROM BATTLE AGAINST YOU PUTRID MONSTERS.


ARE YOU PREPARED TO MEET **THE CREATOR?**

LET'S DO THIS!

YOU WERE RIGHT. WE **HAVE** BEEN A PLAGUE ON YOUR PEOPLE FOR CENTURIES.
GUH!
AND YOU WILL GO INTO THE NEXT WORLD KNOWING THAT WE WILL **CONTINUE** TO BE A PLAGUE FOR CENTURIES MORE.
GAK
I AM **HUP** OF THE **BUFFLE TRUFFS,** AND I OFFER UP TRIBUTE TO OUR MOST POWERFUL AND GLORIOUS RULER...

...QUEEN GERTRUDE!
GERT OF THRONES


THAT'S RIGHT, YOU PIECES OF FLIP! BASK IN ALL MY EVIL GLORY!
OH MY! SHE KILLED MY HUSBAND! DID YOU SEE THAT? SHE KILLED HIM SO FLUFFING HARD!
I WONDER IF SHE'LL AUTOGRAPH HIM!
CAN YOU SIGN MY HUSBAND'S SKULL?
WILL YOU SIGN MY AX?
WILL YOU SIGN THESE FORMS OKAYING THE OVERTIME FOR WORK ON THE SUGAR GLASS IN THE SOUTH TOWER?
CAN YOU SIGN THIS? THE TORTOISE LORDS NEED A GUARANTEE THAT TRADE ROUTES WILL REMAIN OPEN DURING THE ONE HUNDRED YEAR PARADE.
HUH?
OH, AND DON'T FORGET, YOU HAVE A MEETING WITH THE COUNCIL OF JOY TOMORROW. YOU'LL NEED TO SIGN THESE...IN TRIPLICATE...

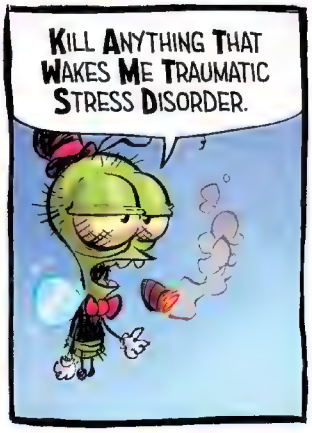
...BASK... MY GLORY...
...AND INITIAL HERE, HERE, HERE, HERE...
...HERE, HERE, AND HERE.

YOUR MAJESTY, I'M AFRAID YOU HAVE TO WAKE UP.
QUEEN GERTRUDE, IT'S TIME TO--

YOU'LL NEVER TAKE ME ALIVE!

CHANK

OOPS. MY BAD. IT MUST BE MY K.A.T.W.M.T.S.D. ACTING UP AGAIN.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND.


KILL ANYTHING THAT WAKES ME TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER.

WHAT'S THIS FOR?
YOU STILL HAVE PAPERS TO SIGN.
REALLY, HOW MUCH IS LEFT?
JUST A FEW.
BEING QUEEN STUFFS! IS THIS ALL THERE IS? SIGNING AND APPROVING THINGS?
OH, WAIT. NO. THERE'S ALSO THE SITTING.
HOURS AND HOURS OF SITTING IN A THRONE ROOM FILLED WITH ONLY A...THRONE.
THIS ROOM IS FILLED WITH THE POWER OF THE OFFICE YOU HOLD, QUEEN OF FAIRYLAND.
WELL, IF THAT POWER IS BOREDOM THEN YOU'RE RIGHT AS FLUFF.
BEING AN EVIL QUEEN HAS TO BE MORE FUN THAN THIS. LET'S SAY I TAKE A LITTLE SLAYCATION TO THE OTHER SIDE.
LARRY, WHAT'S MY LIFE LIKE THEN?
ACCORDING TO THE BOOK OF DARK RULERS, GODS, MONSTERS, GHOSTS, SPIRITS, AND FURRY THINGS, AS EVIL QUEEN YOU COULD...

"ENACT YOUR EVIL SCHEMES AND TAKE OVER ALL THE LANDS...

"PILLAGE, AND PLUNDER, AND BUILD YOUR RICHES BEYOND IMAGINATION, BURNING OUT ANYONE WHO DEFIES YOU...

"BECOME FIERY EVIL EYEBALLS THAT WATCH THE WORLD BURN AS YOU RAIN DOWN YOUR EVIL...

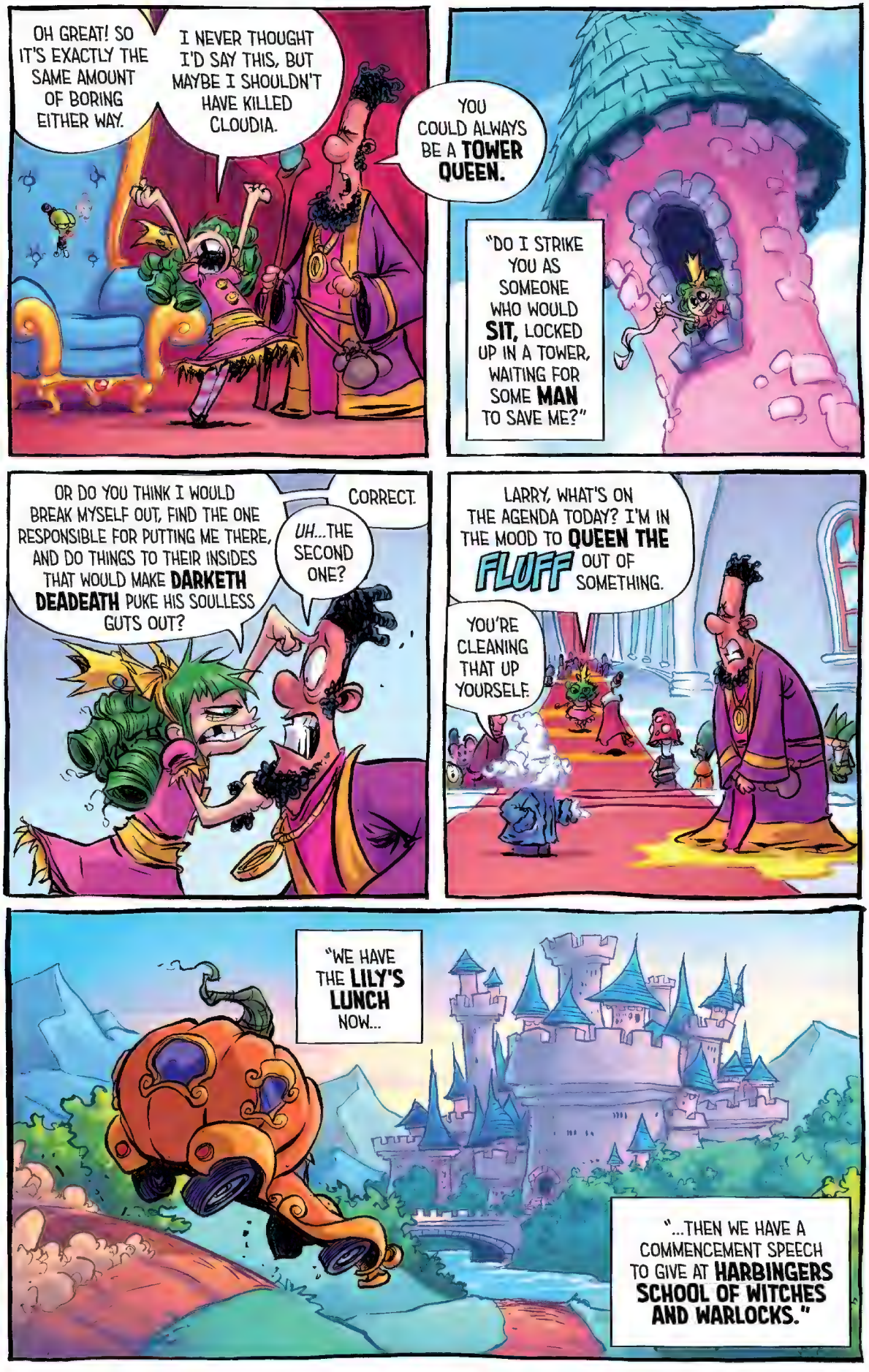
"THOUGH THAT OPTION IS VERY **HOT.**

"...OH, WAIT. SORRY. SPOKE TOO SOON. AS EVIL QUEEN, YOU SEND YOUR HENCHMEN, HORDES, DARK WIZARDS, AND OTHER ALL-AROUND SCOURGE TO DO THAT STUFF. WHILE YOU...

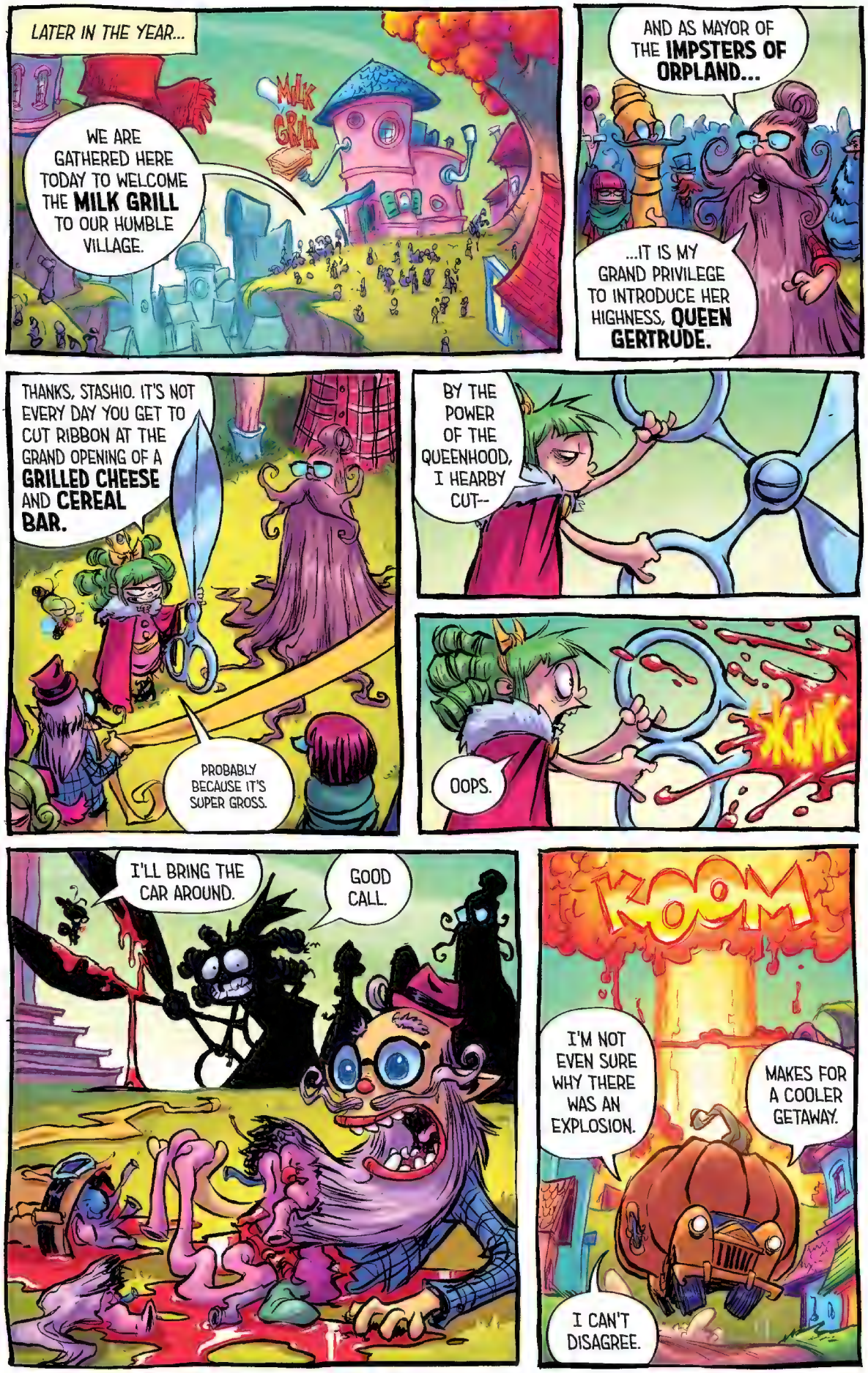
"...SIT.

"ON A THRONE.

"IN AN EMPTY THRONE ROOM."


OH GREAT! SO IT'S EXACTLY THE SAME AMOUNT OF BORING EITHER WAY.
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SAY THIS, BUT MAYBE I SHOULDN'T HAVE KILLED CLOUDIA.
YOU COULD ALWAYS BE A TOWER QUEEN.
"DO I STRIKE YOU AS SOMEONE WHO WOULD SIT, LOCKED UP IN A TOWER, WAITING FOR SOME MAN TO SAVE ME?"
OR DO YOU THINK I WOULD BREAK MYSELF OUT, FIND THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR PUTTING ME THERE, AND DO THINGS TO THEIR INSIDES THAT WOULD MAKE DARKETH DEADEATH PUKE HIS SOULLESS GUTS OUT?
UH...THE SECOND ONE?
CORRECT.
LARRY, WHAT'S ON THE AGENDA TODAY? I'M IN THE MOOD TO QUEEN THE FLUFF OUT OF SOMETHING.
YOU'RE CLEANING THAT UP YOURSELF.
"WE HAVE THE LILY'S LUNCH NOW...
"...THEN WE HAVE A COMMENCEMENT SPEECH TO GIVE AT HARBINGERS SCHOOL OF WITCHES AND WARLOCKS."

...AND SO WITH A WAVE OF THE ANCIENT STAFF OF LOCKHORD AND THE SACRED WORDS OF PUGGLEWHIP, I SEND YOU OUT INTO THE MYSTIC LANDS.
GOLLO KONK MAGIMIGEE...
DID SHE SAY KONK MAGIMIGEE?
I THINK SO.
THAT'S UNFORTUNATE.
LARRY, MAYBE YOU SHOULD BRING THE CAR AROUND.
GOOD CALL.
FAR-FOOM


LATER IN THE YEAR...
WE ARE GATHERED HERE TODAY TO WELCOME THE MILK GRILL TO OUR HUMBLE VILLAGE.
MILK GRILL
AND AS MAYOR OF THE IMPSTERS OF ORPLAND...
...IT IS MY GRAND PRIVILEGE TO INTRODUCE HER HIGHNESS, QUEEN GERTRUDE.
THANKS, STASHIO. IT'S NOT EVERY DAY YOU GET TO CUT RIBBON AT THE GRAND OPENING OF A GRILLED CHEESE AND CEREAL BAR.
PROBABLY BECAUSE IT'S SUPER GROSS.
BY THE POWER OF THE QUEENHOOD, I HEARBY CUT--
OOPS.
SKWK
I'LL BRING THE CAR AROUND.
GOOD CALL.
KOOM
I'M NOT EVEN SURE WHY THERE WAS AN EXPLOSION.
MAKES FOR A COOLER GETAWAY.
I CAN'T DISAGREE.

AND IT CONTINUED LIKE THIS...
...IN EVERY LAND...
...IN EVERY SEA...
...IN EVERY PERSON...
...IN EVERY BEING, WHETHER BIG...
...OR SMALL...
I'LL BRING THE CAR AROUND.
GOOD CALL.
IT'S BEEN MONTHS. HOW LONG DO YOU THINK IT WILL TAKE FOR ME TO GET THIS QUEEN THING DOWN?
IS THIS A TRICK QUESTION?

ONE YEAR AND...

...AN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT BY AN ORPHANED WARLOCK...

...AN ATTACK FROM THE FARM LORDS FOR IMPROPER DISPOSAL OF NON-EATABLE BEINGS, AKA **EATING THEM...**

...THE BUILDING OF AN OBNOXIOUSLY LARGE **CANDY** WALL TO KEEP THE ARMY OF KINGS FROM MAKING THEIR WAY ACROSS THE LANDS TO STEAL THE SEAT OF POWER...

...AN INVASION OF IMPSTERS SEEKING REVENGE FOR IMPROPER DISPOSAL OF NON-RECYCLABLE CORPSES...

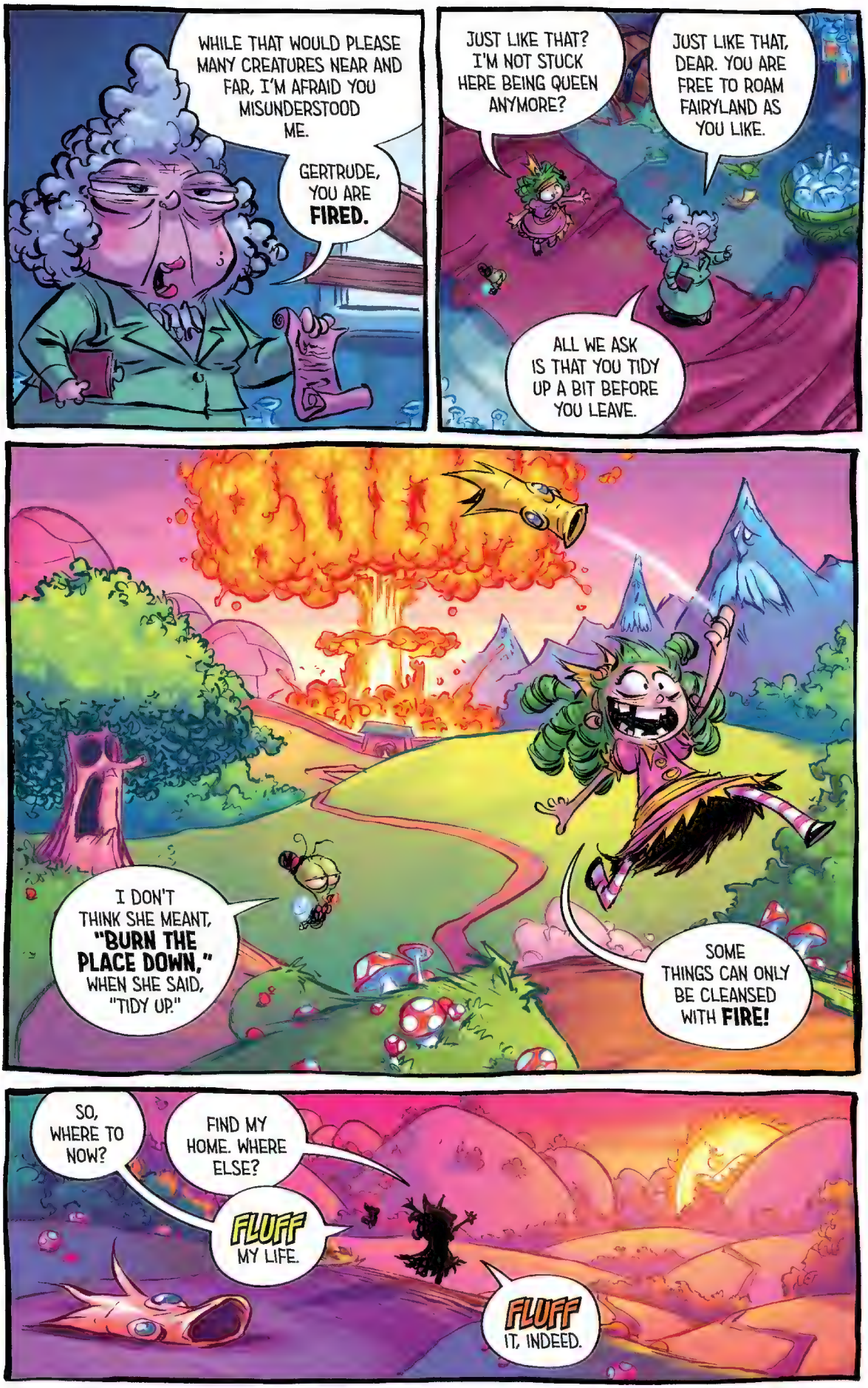
...AND THE THING WITH THE COUSIN, WHO WAS ALSO THE MOM, BUT KIND OF THE SISTER, WHO STABBED THE UNCLE, WHO CHEATED ON HIS HUSBAND, AND ENDED UP BEFRIENDING A KRAKEN BEFORE BECOMING SOME SORT OF GOOPY THING AND DEVOURING HALF THE LAND OF TIZZLE...

...AND WHOLE LOT OF OTHER CONVOLUTED MESSES LATER...
FLUFF THE QUEEN
MAN THIS PLACE HAS GONE TO SPELL SINCE GERTRUDE HAS BEEN QUEEN.
SHHH. WATCH WHAT YOU SAY. I HEARD THE HAT MAKER GOT EXECUTED BECAUSE HE LEFT A LYNT IN THAT FLY'S BOWLER.
GET OUT OF HERE. I HEARD SHE'S LOSING HER MIND. THE PRESSURE OF THE CROWN IS TOO MUCH.
EITHER WAY, YOU WON'T CATCH ME ANYWHERE NEAR THAT CASTLE.
I'VE GOT THE CONTAINERS YOU ORDERED.
WHERE DO YOU WANT 'EM?
INSIDE—UP THE STAIRS UNTIL YOU REACH THE TOP OF THE TOWER. THEY'RE FOR THE QUEEN, SO BE CAREFUL.
WELL, THINGS JUST TOOK A TURN.
OH MY BOG! WHAT COULD THE QUEEN POSSIBLY WANT WITH US?!

WHO THE FLUFF IS THAT? PROBABLY THE SYRUP SISTERS AGAIN!
IF THAT'S WHO I THINK IT IS, TAKE YOUR STICKY FINGERS SOMEWHERE ELSE!
IT'S ME, LARRY...
IT'S GETTING PRETTY RIPE IN THERE SO I FIGURED YOU COULD USE A NEW STASH OF BOTTLES.
GOOD THINKING.
I RAN OUT A FEW DAYS AGO.
WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN USING?
I CAN'T REMEMBER.
WELL, WHILE THE LOCATION OF YOUR WASTE IS INTRIGUING, YOU NEED TO KNOW SOMETHING...
WHAT?
WINTER IS COMING.

W-W-WHAT DID Y-YOU SAY?
WINTER IS COMING.
CAN YOU SAY THAT AGAIN? I DON'T THINK I GET IT.
WINTER. IS. COMING.
WHAT DOES THAT EVEN MEAN, MAN?!
IS IT A METAPHOR TO DESCRIBE THE STARK COLDNESS THAT ACCOMPANIES THE IMPENDING DOOM THAT I'VE BROUGHT TO THESE LANDS?
NO, BUT THAT'S PRETTY DEEP STUFF.
I MEAN HARRIET WINTER, HEAD OF H.R.-- SHE GAVE ME A HEADS UP. SHE'S COMING TO TALK TO YOU.
HELLO, GERTRUDE.
HARRIET WINTER.

WHAT DO YOU WANT, HARRIET?
WE'VE COMPLETED YOUR ONE-YEAR EVALUATION, AND WANTED TO HAVE A CHAT ABOUT THE RESULTS.
HOW'D I DO?
HOW DO YOU THINK YOU DID?
WELL, I FIGURED OUT A WAY TO RUIN AGES OF TREATIES AND TRUCES...
...MAY HAVE CAUSED ONE, MAYBE TWO CIVILIZATIONS TO GO EXTINCT...
...EVERY RULER OR WARLORD IN FAIRYLAND IS TRYING TO TAKE THE THRONE FROM ME...
...AND I'VE BARRICADED MYSELF IN A ROOM SURROUNDED WITH BOTTLES FILLED WITH WHAT LOOKS AND SMELLS LIKE MY OWN PEE.
BECAUSE IT IS, IN FACT, MY OWN PEE.
HELP ME, PLEASE.
LESS THAN SATISFACTORY.
WE'RE ALL IN AGREEMENT, THEN.
WHAT ARE WE AGREEING ON?
ON YOUR TERMINATION.
UPON REVIEWING YOUR PERFORMANCE OF DUTIES AS QUEEN OF FAIRYLAND, THE COUNCIL HAS FOUND YOU AN UTTER FAILURE, AND FEARS FOR THE FUTURE OF SAID LAND.
SO...
...YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE ME KILLED? YOU ALL DON'T FLUFF AROUND UP HERE.


WHILE THAT WOULD PLEASE MANY CREATURES NEAR AND FAR, I'M AFRAID YOU MISUNDERSTOOD ME.
GERTRUDE, YOU ARE FIRED.
JUST LIKE THAT? I'M NOT STUCK HERE BEING QUEEN ANYMORE?
JUST LIKE THAT, DEAR. YOU ARE FREE TO ROAM FAIRYLAND AS YOU LIKE.
ALL WE ASK IS THAT YOU TIDY UP A BIT BEFORE YOU LEAVE.
I DON'T THINK SHE MEANT, "BURN THE PLACE DOWN," WHEN SHE SAID, "TIDY UP."
SOME THINGS CAN ONLY BE CLEANSED WITH FIRE!
SO, WHERE TO NOW?
FIND MY HOME. WHERE ELSE?
FLUFF MY LIFE.
FLUFF IT, INDEED.

SEVEN

ONCE UPON A TIME...
♫ FAIRY-FREEZY, FAIRY-FREEZY, TASTE LIKE MAGIC ON MY TONGUEY-TONGUE-TONGUE... ♪
SALE
♫ FAIRY-FREEZY, FAIRY-FREEZY, YOU'VE CAST YOUR SPELL ON MY TUMMY-TUM-TUM! ♫
DUNCAN, WHAT HAVE I TOLD YOU ABOUT SINGING THAT SONG? IT'S DISTURBING.
AND WHY CAN'T YOU TRICK OR TREAT ON HALLOWEEN LIKE ALL THE NORMAL KIDS?
MAGIC ART
SQUID
Mike

FAIRY-FREEZY

ARE YOU KIDDING ME? HALLOWEEN IS THE ONLY NIGHT OF THE YEAR THE MAGIC MART HAS **FAIRY-FREEZY SUPER DUPER SPECIAL FLAVORS...**

...AND I PLAN ON DRINKING THEM **ALL!**

THAT'S FINE, BUT DON'T THINK I'M NOT KEEPING A TALLY ON HOW MANY YOU DRINK. YOU STILL OWE ME FOR THE LAST TIME YOU WERE HERE.
SNAP
SLURRP
SLURRP
GULP
GLUG
GLUG
GLUG
GLUG
UH-OH...

MAGIC MART
BATHROOM'S BUSTED. HERE'S THE KEY TO THE ONE OUTSIDE, BEHIND THE STORE.
BE CAREFUL THOUGH...
WOOOSH
"...YOU MIGHT NOT MAKE IT BACK!"

COME ON, YOU STUPID ZIPPER.
COME ON, COME ON...
...COME ON! I GOTTA GO!
KREEK
HUH?
OH SH...
BRRURG

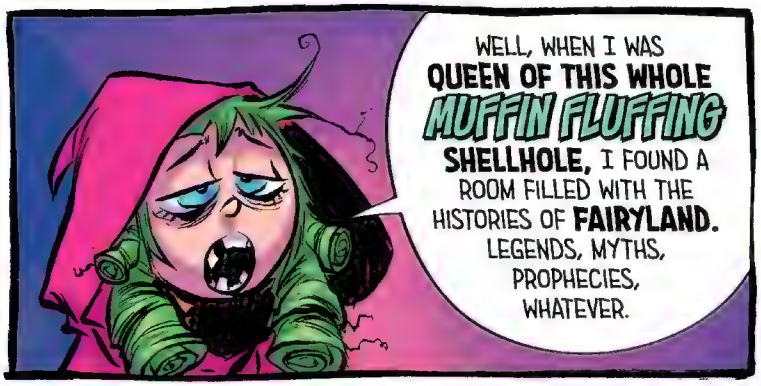
...IIIIIIIIIIIT!
HOW TO DRAIN YOUR DRAGON

"NOW THAT WE'RE IN THIS OUTHOUSE OF A BAR, HOW ABOUT YOU TELL ME WHY YOU DRAGGED US TO THE **TOILET** OF FAIRYLAND."

THEY SAY THERE'S A SCAVENGER SOMEWHERE AROUND HERE WHO COLLECTS **ODDITIES,** AND ONE OF THEM IS SOME SORT OF WORLD JUMPER.
AND HOW, IF YOU DON'T MIND ME ASKING, WOULD YOU KNOW THAT?

WHAT? YOU THINK YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS THINGS? I KNOW THINGS. I KNOW **LOTS OF THINGS.**

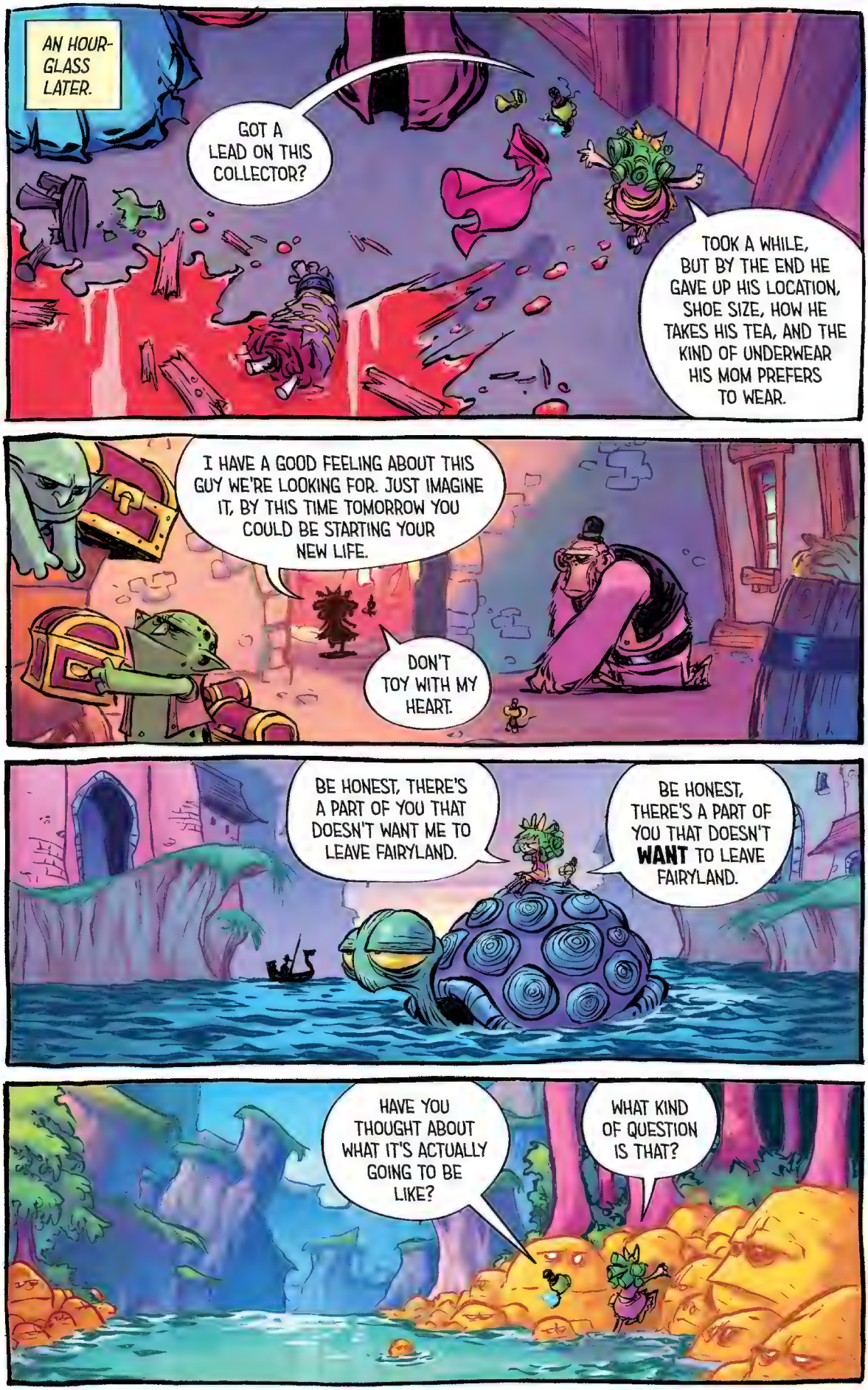
YOU WOULDN'T **KNOW** HOW OR WHEN YOU HAVE TO TAKE A **PIZZ** IF I WASN'T AROUND TO REMIND YOU.
SO YEAH, I'M CURIOUS HOW YOU'VE GOT A LEAD ON A WAY HOME.


WELL, WHEN I WAS **QUEEN OF THIS WHOLE MUFFIN FLUFFING SHELLHOLE,** I FOUND A ROOM FILLED WITH THE HISTORIES OF **FAIRYLAND.** LEGENDS, MYTHS, PROPHECIES, WHATEVER.

"SINCE CLOUDIA AND HAPPY RUINED MY CHANCE FOR GETTING OUT OF HERE...
"...I HAD A FEW VOLUNTEERS SEARCH THROUGH EVERY BOOK, TABLET, AND SCROLL, LOOKING FOR ANY POSSIBLE WAYS FOR ME TO GET BACK."
AND NOW I HAVE THIS **LIST** OF ALL THE OPTIONS THEY COULD FIND.
THAT LOOKS AN AWFUL LOT LIKE THE **MAP.** YOU KNOW, THE LAST LONG, SCROLLING PIECE OF PAPER THAT WAS MEANT TO HELP END OUR RELATIONSHIP.
I THOUGHT THE SAME THING, BUT THEY JUST COME FROM THE SAME SUPPLIER.
WELL, THAT'S CONVENIENT.
MacGUFFIN PAPER CO.
PROVIDING YOUR PLOT DEVICE A QUALITY SURFACE SINCE ONCE UPON A TIME

LET'S ASK THE BARTENDER IF HE KNOWS ANYTHING.
THIS GUY LOOKS PRETTY BIG, NOT SURE THE AX WILL DO THE TRICK. WHAT DO YOU THINK, CANNON? OR MAYBE--
NOPE. NOT ANYMORE, LARRIGON. I'M TURNING OVER A NEW LEAF. GOING TO PLAY THIS STRAIGHT.
EXCUSE ME, SIR. I WAS HOPING THAT YOU WOULD BE KIND ENOUGH TO HELP ME FIND--
YOU HAVE SOME NERVE COMING HERE ASKING FOR FAVORS.
YOUR DEAL WITH THE **SNUGGLES** RAISED MY ALE TAX FIFTY PERCENT. I'M BARELY HOLDING ON TO MY PLACE.

SO THE ONLY THING I'LL HELP YOU FIND IS THE HOLE YOUR BODY'S GOING TO BE DROPPED IN.
LARRY, YOU ADVISED AGAINST IT, BUT I THINK I'D LIKE TO RECONSIDER THE TOPIC OF THE AX AND INSERTING IT INTO MY FRIEND HERE...
...FOR HE HAS REJECTED MY NEW LEAF.
I'M PROUD OF YOU FOR TRYING.
OOF
GUG
HA HA HA HA! I'M BACK, LARRY! IT'S LIKE RIDING A BIKE!
WHOMP
SURE. A VERY MORBID AND SCARY BIKE.

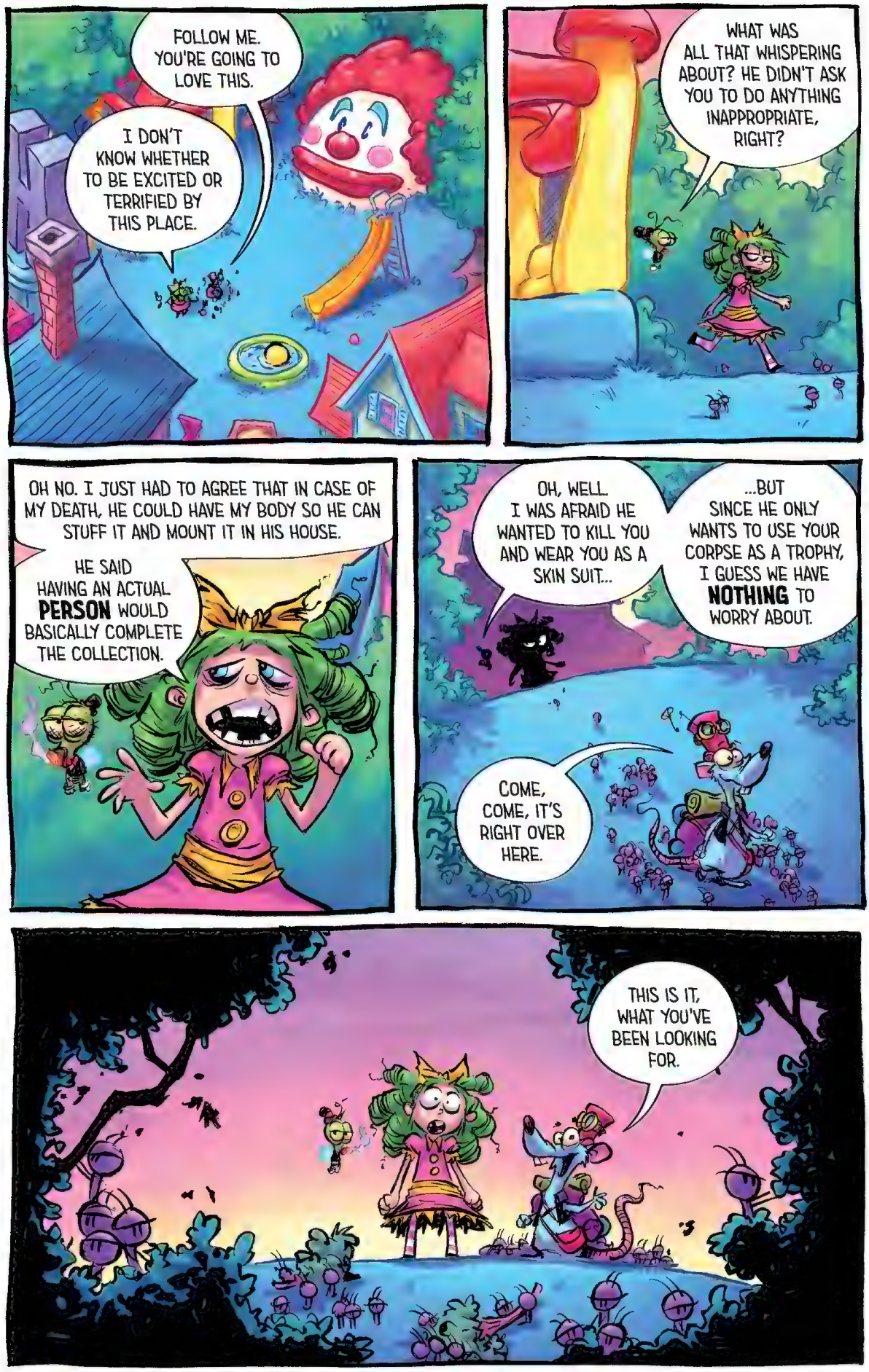

AN HOUR-GLASS LATER.
GOT A LEAD ON THIS COLLECTOR?
TOOK A WHILE, BUT BY THE END HE GAVE UP HIS LOCATION, SHOE SIZE, HOW HE TAKES HIS TEA, AND THE KIND OF UNDERWEAR HIS MOM PREFERS TO WEAR.
I HAVE A GOOD FEELING ABOUT THIS GUY WE'RE LOOKING FOR. JUST IMAGINE IT, BY THIS TIME TOMORROW YOU COULD BE STARTING YOUR NEW LIFE.
DON'T TOY WITH MY HEART.
BE HONEST, THERE'S A PART OF YOU THAT DOESN'T WANT ME TO LEAVE FAIRYLAND.
BE HONEST, THERE'S A PART OF YOU THAT DOESN'T **WANT** TO LEAVE FAIRYLAND.
HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT IT'S ACTUALLY GOING TO BE LIKE?
WHAT KIND OF QUESTION IS THAT?

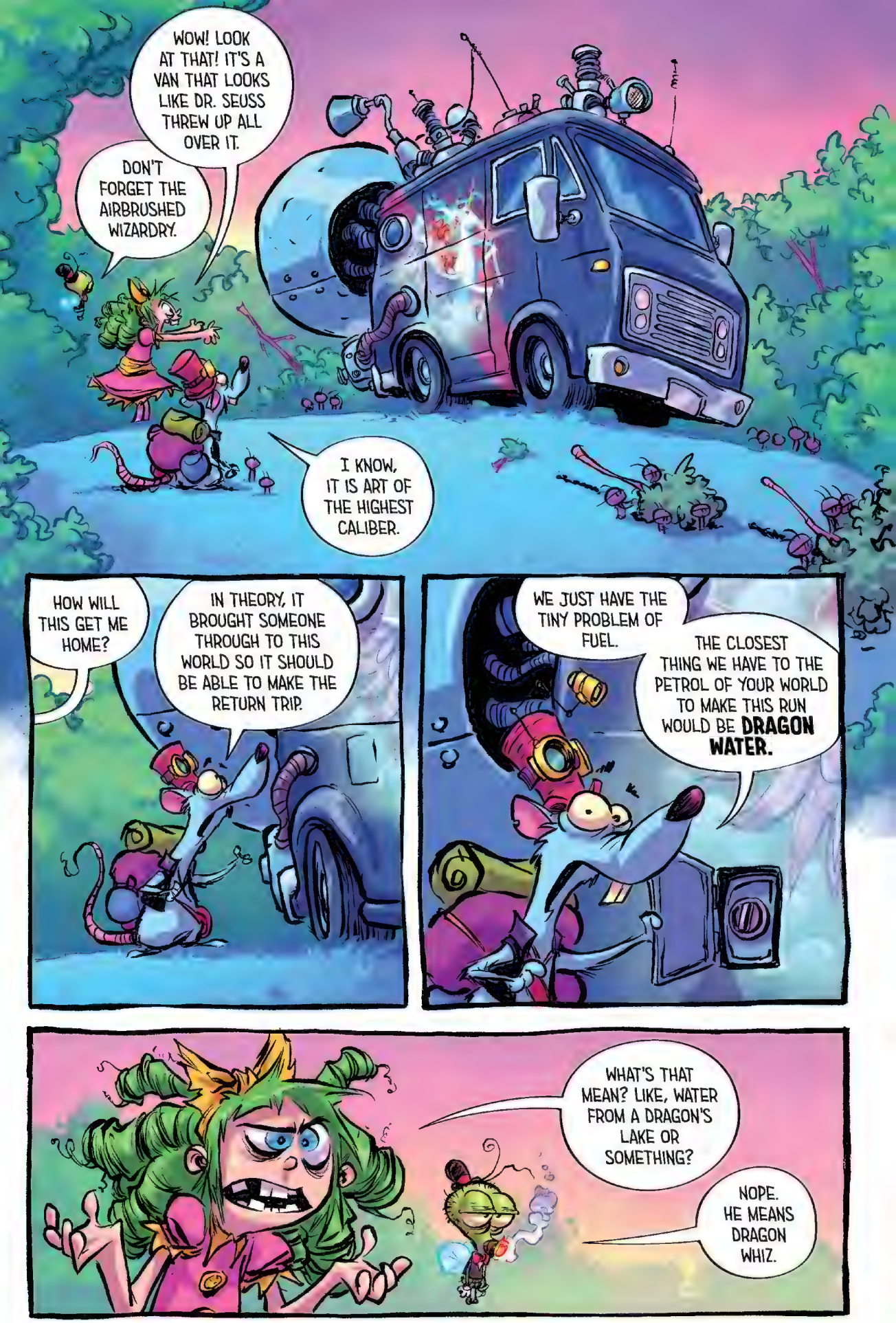
SERIOUSLY. YOU'VE BEEN HERE THIRTY YEARS. NO ONE KNOWS WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN YOU GO BACK.
DOES TIME PASS THE SAME ON BOTH SIDES? WILL YOU BE A LITTLE GIRL? A FULL-GROWN WOMAN?
WILL YOU BE IN AN INSTITUTION OF SOME SORT?
WILL YOUR PEOPLE ACCEPT YOU BACK IF TIME DID PASS? FOR THAT MATTER, WILL THEY EVEN BE ALIVE--
BAP
THANK YOU, LARRY. I'VE NEVER CONSIDERED ANY OF THAT. NOT FOR A SECOND.
MUST BE WHY I'M SO WELL-ADJUSTED.
AT THIS POINT, ALL THE MEMORIES I HAVE OF HOME ARE STARTING TO BLEND TOGETHER INTO ONE BIG, FREAKY MESS.
I'M NOT SURE I EVEN KNOW HOW TO EXPLAIN IT, REALLY.
DON'T WORRY, I THINK I GET IT NOW.
HOLY PUFF!

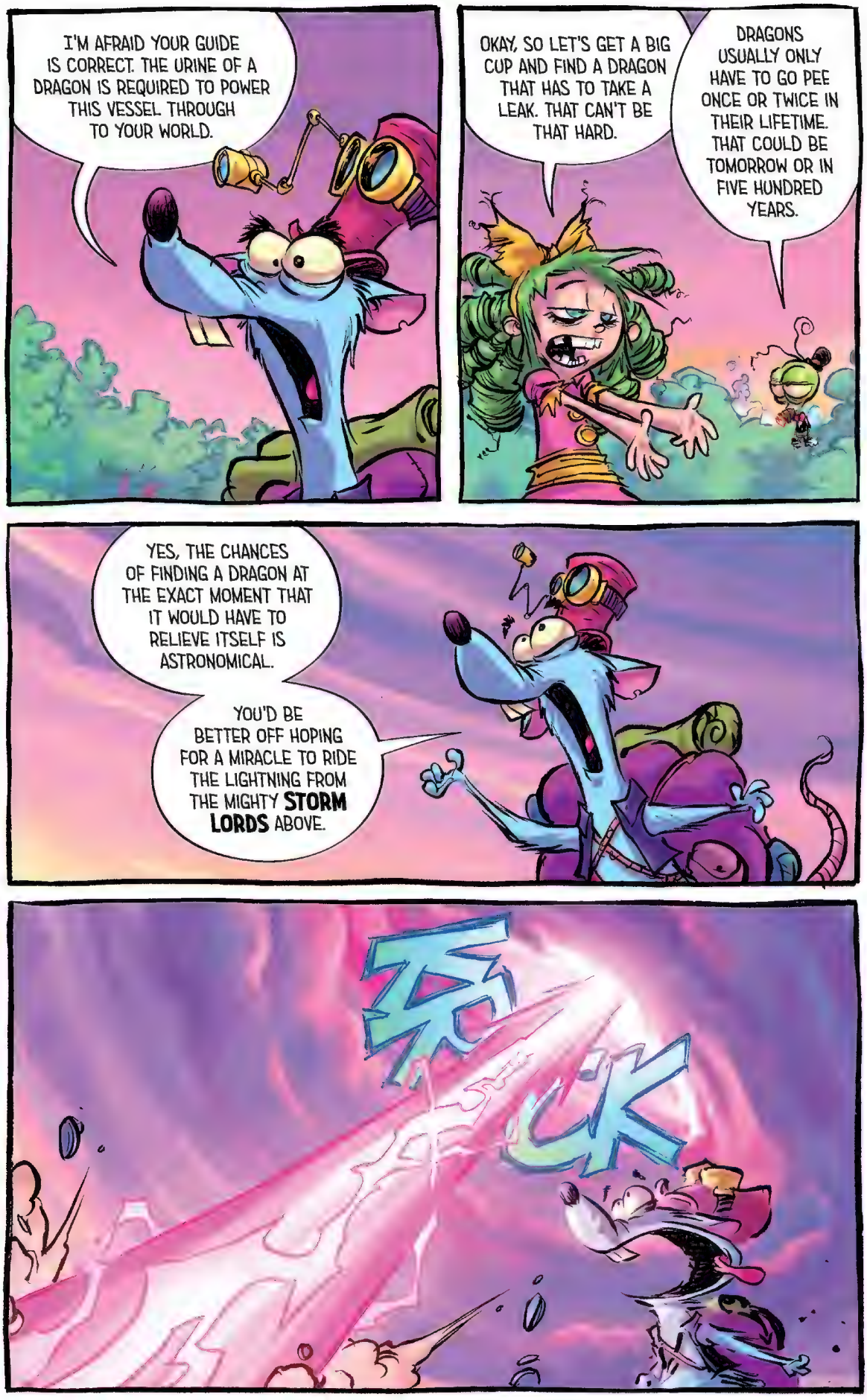
IT'S LIKE FRANKENSTEIN FLUFFED A HOUSE AND THAT'S THE LOVE CHILD.
OH MY! I CAN'T BELIEVE MY EYES.
IT'S YOU, IT'S REALLY YOU, GERTRUDE! I NEVER THOUGHT THIS DAY WOULD COME.
PLEASE, COME IN.

WHOA. I HEARD YOU WERE A COLLECTOR BUT THIS...IT'S LIKE I'M BACK HOME. WHO ARE YOU?
WHY, I AM **PERVIS PEDDLESTEAL,** THE FINEST **PACKRAT** THIS SIDE OF CHECKERS TOWN. AS YOU CAN SEE, I'M QUITE THE EXPERT ON YOUR WORLD.
OH **FLIP!** IT'S **SALLY SPIT UP.**
I USED TO HAVE ONE JUST LIKE THIS.
YAK
WHERE DID YOU GET ALL OF THIS STUFF?

IT ALL BEGAN AROUND THE TURN OF THE THIRD PRETENDURY. I FOUND THIS SMALL TOY LEFT BEHIND BY A CHILD OF THE REAL WORLD.
AFTER THAT, I BECAME OBSESSED WITH ADDING TO MY COLLECTION.
YOU SEE, EVERY TIME A GUEST ARRIVES, THEY BRING THINGS WITH THEM--INTENTIONALLY, OR NOT SO INTENTIONALLY--SO ME AND MY LITTLE HELPERS SEEK THOSE THINGS OUT AND BRING THEM HERE.
YOU HAVE A LOT OF STUFF **FROM** MY WORLD. BUT WHAT ABOUT A WAY **TO** MY WORLD? YOU GOT ANYTHING THAT SWINGS BOTH WAYS?
HMMM. I MIGHT HAVE JUST THE THING.
BUT, I'LL WANT SOMETHING FROM YOU IN RETURN.
MMM M MMMM MMMMM MMMMM MMM MM
THAT'S PRETTY DARK, PERVIS. BUT YOU HAVE A DEAL.

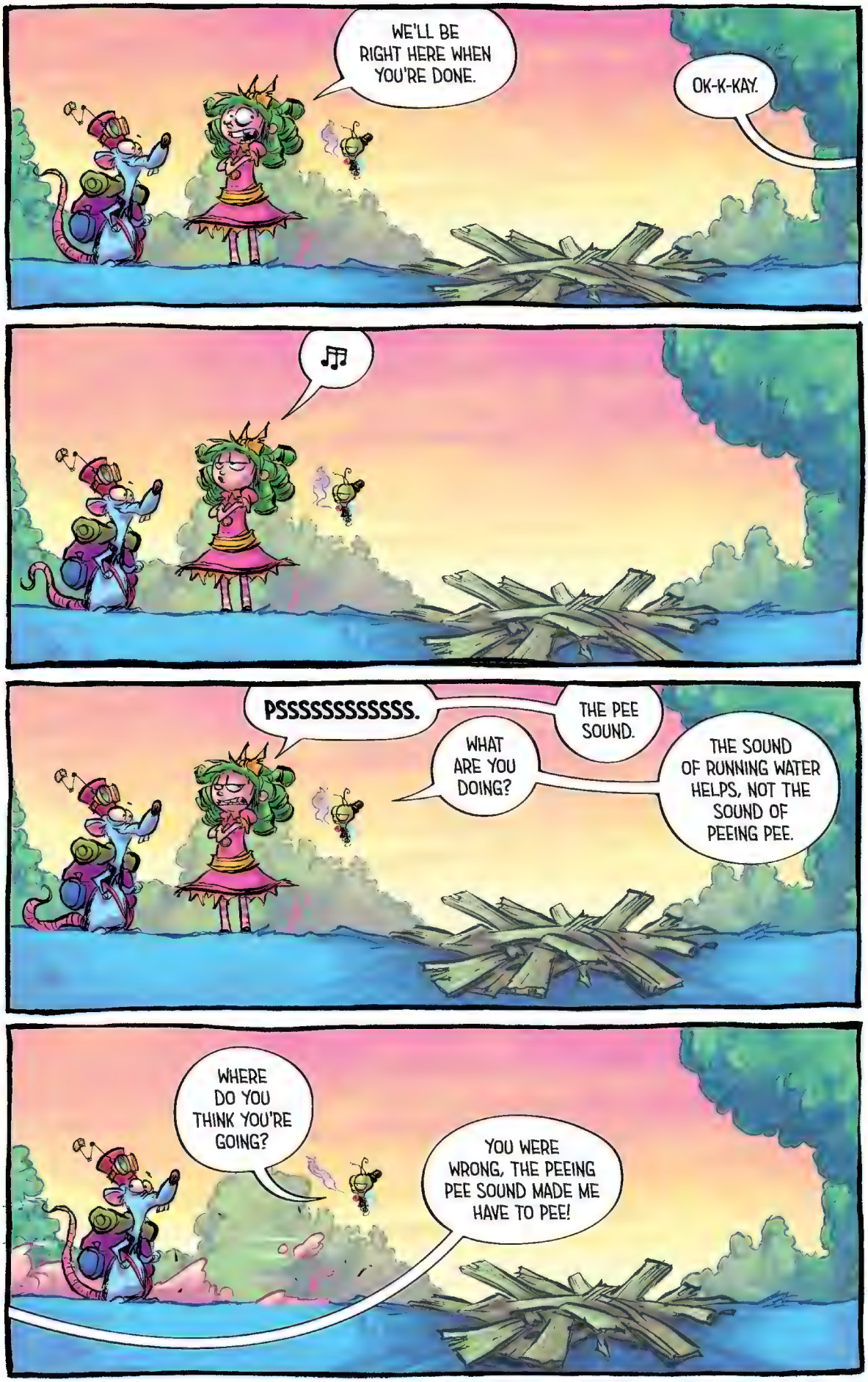

FOLLOW ME. YOU'RE GOING TO LOVE THIS.
I DON'T KNOW WHETHER TO BE EXCITED OR TERRIFIED BY THIS PLACE.
WHAT WAS ALL THAT WHISPERING ABOUT? HE DIDN'T ASK YOU TO DO ANYTHING INAPPROPRIATE, RIGHT?
OH NO. I JUST HAD TO AGREE THAT IN CASE OF MY DEATH, HE COULD HAVE MY BODY SO HE CAN STUFF IT AND MOUNT IT IN HIS HOUSE.
HE SAID HAVING AN ACTUAL PERSON WOULD BASICALLY COMPLETE THE COLLECTION.
OH, WELL. I WAS AFRAID HE WANTED TO KILL YOU AND WEAR YOU AS A SKIN SUIT...
...BUT SINCE HE ONLY WANTS TO USE YOUR CORPSE AS A TROPHY, I GUESS WE HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
COME, COME, IT'S RIGHT OVER HERE.
THIS IS IT, WHAT YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR.


WOW! LOOK AT THAT! IT'S A VAN THAT LOOKS LIKE DR. SEUSS THREW UP ALL OVER IT.
DON'T FORGET THE AIRBRUSHED WIZARDRY.
I KNOW, IT IS ART OF THE HIGHEST CALIBER.
HOW WILL THIS GET ME HOME?
IN THEORY, IT BROUGHT SOMEONE THROUGH TO THIS WORLD SO IT SHOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE THE RETURN TRIP.
WE JUST HAVE THE TINY PROBLEM OF FUEL.
THE CLOSEST THING WE HAVE TO THE PETROL OF YOUR WORLD TO MAKE THIS RUN WOULD BE DRAGON WATER.
WHAT'S THAT MEAN? LIKE, WATER FROM A DRAGON'S LAKE OR SOMETHING?
NOPE. HE MEANS DRAGON WHIZ.


I'M AFRAID YOUR GUIDE IS CORRECT. THE URINE OF A DRAGON IS REQUIRED TO POWER THIS VESSEL THROUGH TO YOUR WORLD.
OKAY, SO LET'S GET A BIG CUP AND FIND A DRAGON THAT HAS TO TAKE A LEAK. THAT CAN'T BE THAT HARD.
DRAGONS USUALLY ONLY HAVE TO GO PEE ONCE OR TWICE IN THEIR LIFETIME. THAT COULD BE TOMORROW OR IN FIVE HUNDRED YEARS.
YES, THE CHANCES OF FINDING A DRAGON AT THE EXACT MOMENT THAT IT WOULD HAVE TO RELIEVE ITSELF IS ASTRONOMICAL.
YOU'D BE BETTER OFF HOPING FOR A MIRACLE TO RIDE THE LIGHTNING FROM THE MIGHTY **STORM LORDS** ABOVE.
FUCK

WHAT'S HAPPENING?
I DON'T KNOW, BUT FOR ONCE I DON'T THINK IT'S YOUR DOING.
BA DOOM
CRICK
CLACK
CRACKS

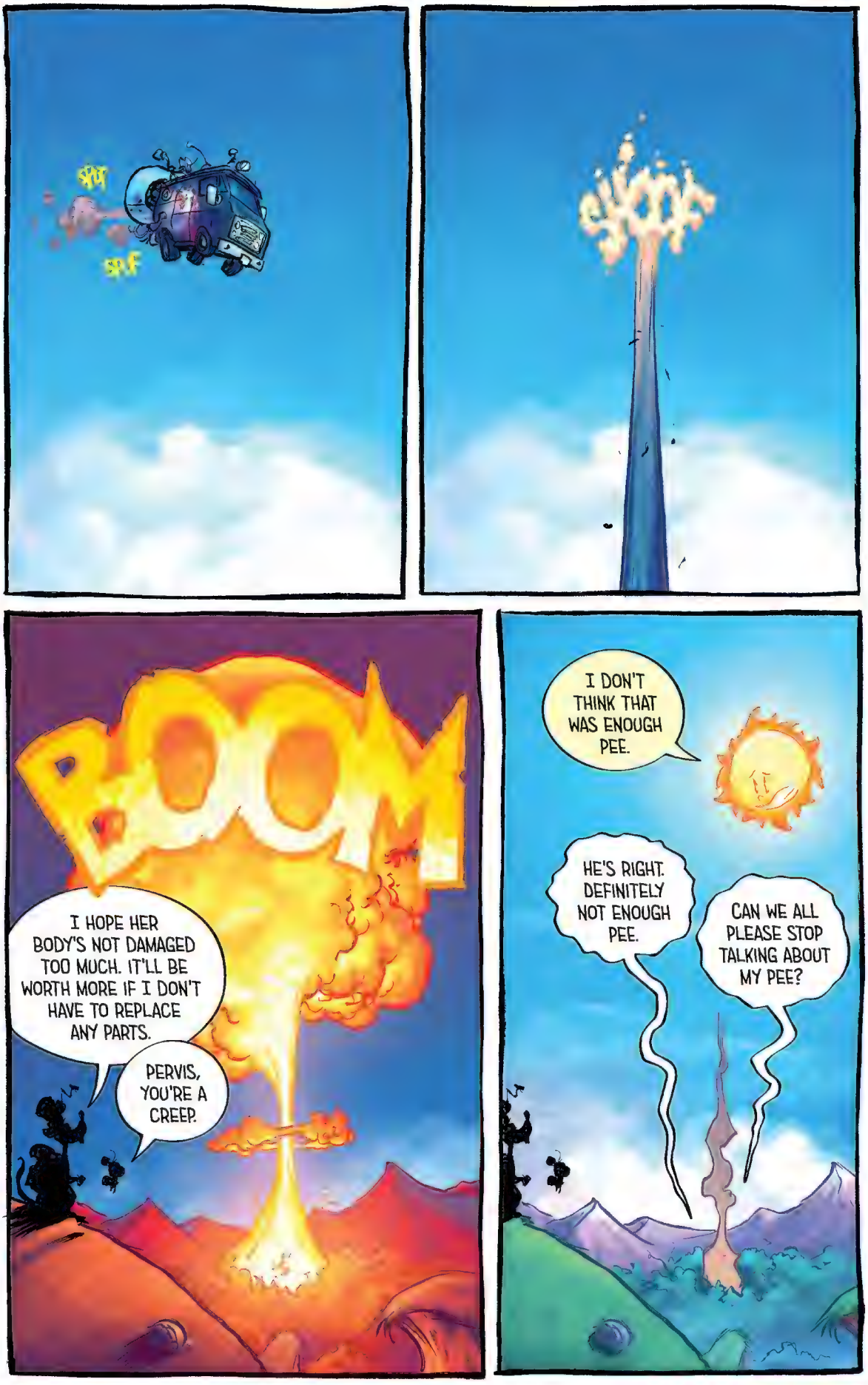
I-I-I HAVE TO PEEEEE!
DOES THAT LOOK LIKE A DRAGON TO YOU?
HE DOES LOOK LIKE A DRAGON.
I'LL GET A HOSE AND FUNNEL.


WE'LL BE RIGHT HERE WHEN YOU'RE DONE.
OK-K-KAY.
♫
PSSSSSSSSSSSS.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
THE PEE SOUND.
THE SOUND OF RUNNING WATER HELPS, NOT THE SOUND OF PEEING PEE.
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?
YOU WERE WRONG, THE PEEING PEE SOUND MADE ME HAVE TO PEE!

DID THE DRAGON PEE YET?
NOPE. NO PEE, BUT NOW I KIND OF HAVE TO PEE.
PERVIS, HOW ARE YOU DOING ON THE PEE FRONT?
I'M BECOMING VERY UNCOMFORTABLE WITH THE AMOUNT OF TALK ABOUT PEE.
YOU TOTALLY HAVE TO PEE NOW, DON'T YOU?
YES.
EXCUSE ME...
I THINK I'M DONE PEEING IN THAT GAS TANK. CAN I GO HOME NOW?

I'VE BEEN ASKING THAT SAME QUESTION FOR THE LAST THIRTY YEARS, KID.
AND THANKS TO...
I DON'T THINK I GOT YOUR NAME.
DUNCAN.
THANKS TO DUNCAN HERE, THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION IS FINALLY FLUFF YES!
GOOD LUCK, GERTRUDE!
I REALLY HOPE YOU MAKE IT HOME!
OR DIE.
PLEASE PICK ONE OF THOSE. JUST DON'T INJURE YOURSELF SO BADLY THAT I HAVE TO FEED YOU, AND WIPE YOU, AND CLEAN YOU, AND WISH FOR MY OWN DEATH AS A SWEET, SWEET RELEASE, BUT HAVE TO FACE THE FACT THAT IT WILL NEVER COME.
GO HUG YOURSELF, LARRY!

HERE WE GO, DUNCAN DRAGON! TIME TO...
...FLY!
KWOOOM!


SPIF
SPLF
SPOOF
BOOM
I HOPE HER BODY'S NOT DAMAGED TOO MUCH. IT'LL BE WORTH MORE IF I DON'T HAVE TO REPLACE ANY PARTS.
PERVIS, YOU'RE A CREEP.
I DON'T THINK THAT WAS ENOUGH PEE.
HE'S RIGHT. DEFINITELY NOT ENOUGH PEE.
CAN WE ALL PLEASE STOP TALKING ABOUT MY PEE?

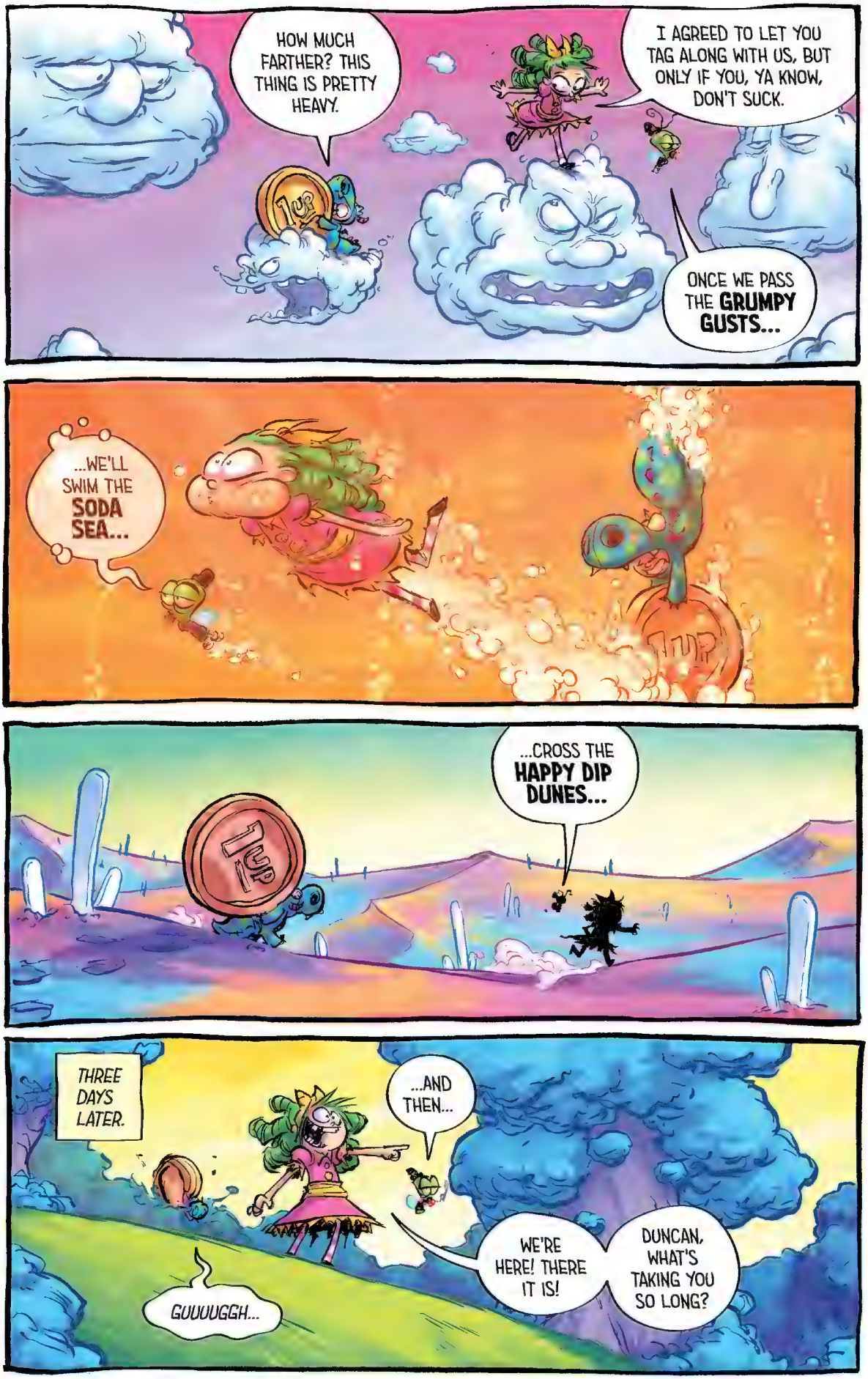
EIGHT

HMMM. DOOM LIES WHERE THE TIME HAS NOT YET WANDERED NOR WILL HAVE THE CHANCE TO.
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
THE CANDIES ARE CRYING, BUT THEY ARE NEVER LYING.
CHOICE KNOWS YOU WELL AND WILL MAKE YOU THE GREATEST MONSTER FAIRYLAND HAS EVER SEEN IF YOU PICK POORLY UPON MEETING HER.
YEAH, YEAH...

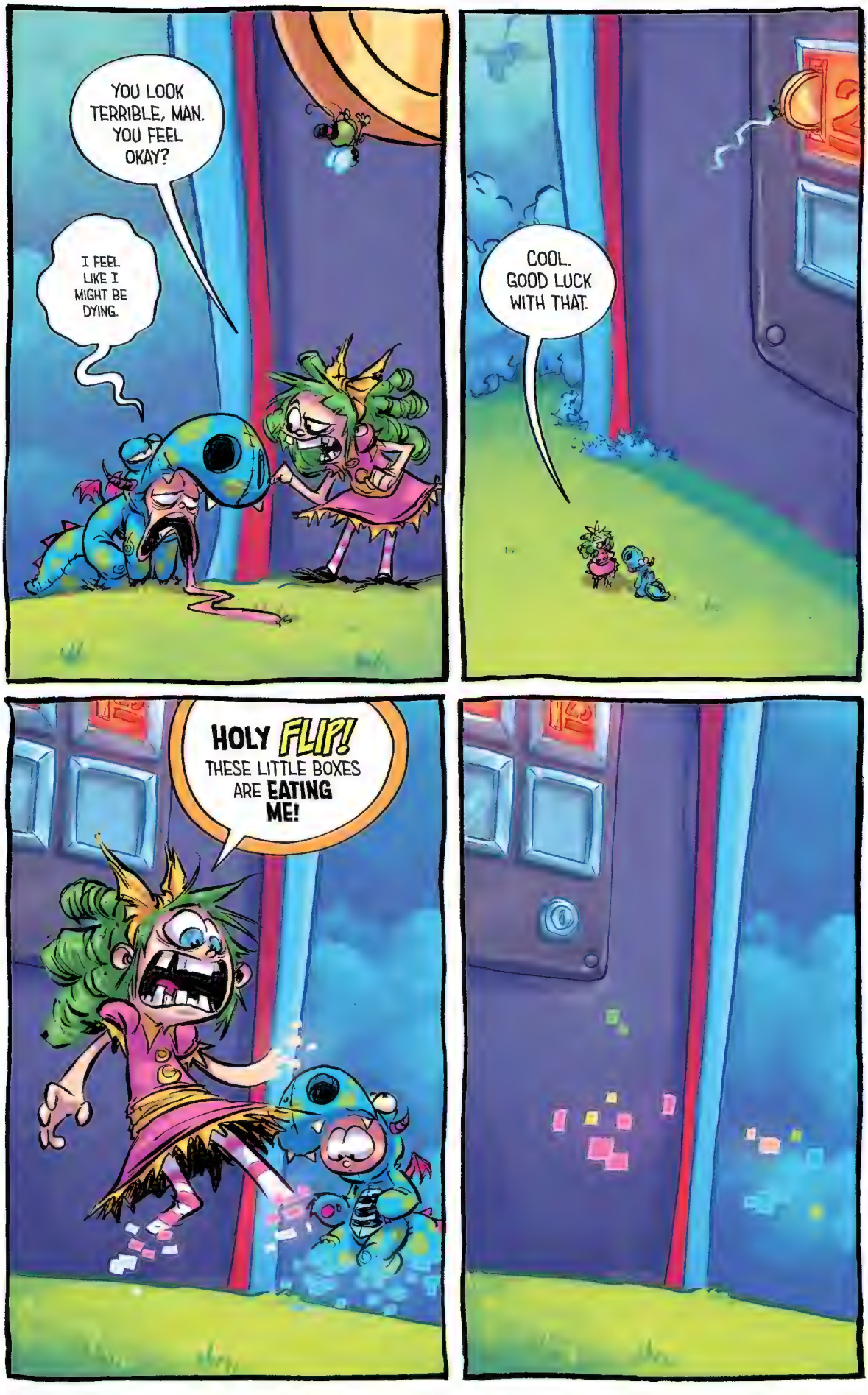
...ENOUGH ABOUT THIS SMOTHER FUDGER! I WANT TO HEAR ABOUT WHAT MY FUTURE HOLDS.
HE DOESN'T HAVE TO READ THE CANDIES TO KNOW YOUR FUTURE.
SPOILER: YOU WILL BE WEARING NO SHADES, BECAUSE IT ISN'T SO BRIGHT.
I WOULD LOVE TO KILL-PUNCH THAT SACK YOU CALL A HEAD, BUT I'M AFRAID YOU WOULD THINK CHRISTMAS CAME EARLY.
I HAVE BEEN ASKING SANTA TO PUT ME OUT OF MY MISERY FOR A LONG WHILE.
STUPID JOLLY PACIFIST.

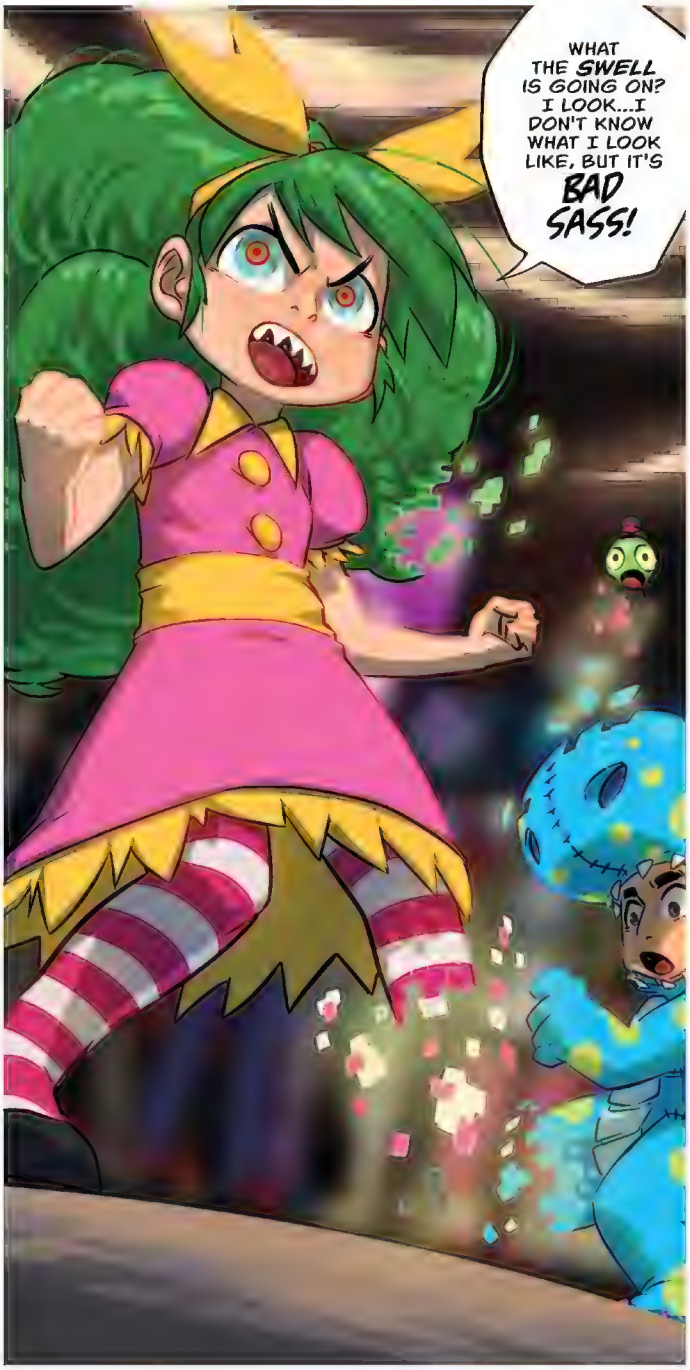
MY, MY. WHAT WILL THE CHILD THINK, SEEING MOMMY AND DADDY FIGHTING LIKE THIS?
MISTER, I MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO MURDER THIS DUMMY, BUT I'LL PUT TWO IN YOUR BISCUIT WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT.
IF THE FORTUNE TELLING IS OVER, I HEARD THERE WAS A GOLDEN COIN YOU MIGHT BE WILLING TO MAKE A TRADE FOR.
HOW WOULD YOU LIKE A BRAND NEW--
SLIGHTLY USED.
FINE.
HOW WOULD YOU LIKE A LIKE NEW PAIR OF PEEPERS?

HOW DO THEY LOOK?
I KNOW, I KNOW. THEY'RE A TINY BIT INFECTED, BUT I THINK IT'LL CLEAR UP IN A FEW DAYS.
TAKE THIS TO THE **TOWER OF BATTLE.** YOU'LL KNOW WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU GET THERE.
GOOD LUCK. YOU'LL NEED IT.
1UP


HOW MUCH FARTHER? THIS THING IS PRETTY HEAVY.
I AGREED TO LET YOU TAG ALONG WITH US, BUT ONLY IF YOU, YA KNOW, DON'T SUCK.
ONCE WE PASS THE GRUMPY GUSTS...
...WE'LL SWIM THE SODA SEA...
...CROSS THE HAPPY DIP DUNES...
THREE DAYS LATER.
...AND THEN...
WE'RE HERE! THERE IT IS!
DUNCAN, WHAT'S TAKING YOU SO LONG?
GUUUUGGH...

TOWER OF BATTLE
PUT YOUR QUARTER UP
1UP


YOU LOOK TERRIBLE, MAN. YOU FEEL OKAY?
I FEEL LIKE I MIGHT BE DYING.
COOL. GOOD LUCK WITH THAT.
HOLY FLIP! THESE LITTLE BOXES ARE EATING ME!


WHAT THE SWELL IS GOING ON? I LOOK...I DON'T KNOW WHAT I LOOK LIKE, BUT IT'S BAD SASS!

LOOKS LIKE SOME SORT OF ENCHANTMENT OR GLAMOR.
HUSH YOUR MOUTH, BUG!

WE DON'T PLAY WITH WITCHCRAFT AND SPELLS IN HERE...

THIS IS THE TOWER OF BATTLE!
ALL WE DO HERE IS FIGHT!

NOW TELL ME, WHAT BRINGS THE FALLEN QUEEN TO SEE OL' NICKY NINES?

I WANT TO GET OUT OF THIS SPELLHOLE, AND I HEAR YOU HAVE A WAY TO HELP ME.

WELL, WELL, WELL. YOU'VE COME HOPING TO USE THE CODE, HAVE YOU?
UNFORTUNATELY FOR YOU, IT WILL COST MORE THAN HOPE. YOU'LL HAVE TO FIGHT YOUR WAY THROUGH MY TOURNAMENT. STARTING WITH...

GLAM BAM!
MY MOST FABULOUS FIGHTER.

ALL I HAVE TO DO IS BEAT SPANDEX McTEASEYHAIR AND WHATEVER OTHER MEATHEADS YOU THROW AT ME, THEN YOU'LL GIVE US THE CODE TO GET HOME?

IF YOU SURVIVE, THEN YES. I GIVE YOU THE CODE.
BUT IF I WIN, I WANT SOMETHING FROM YOU.

IF YOU LOSE, I GET YOUR DRAGON!
WHAT? NO WAY! GERT WOULD NEVER LET--
DEAL.
I SAW THAT COMING.
HOW COULD YOU?! I THOUGHT WE WERE A TEAM!
TEAM GET HOME, RIGHT? ME AND YOU.
LET'S SEE. I'M ON TEAM I GIVE ZERO FLUFFS ABOUT YOU.
YOU ON THAT TEAM?
NO.
DIDN'T THINK SO.
WE ARE HIRING CHEERLEADERS THOUGH. JOB'S YOURS IF YOU WANT IT.
GO TEAM.
GOOD ENOUGH. LET'S THROW DOWN.

15
HITS
35
HITS
47
HITS

KILLER COMBO!

FATAL BLOW!

THAT ALL YOU GOT, FAT CAT?

LOOKS LIKE YOU MIGHT LIVE UP TO THE LEGENDS AFTER ALL.
NO MATTER. GLAM WAS JUST AN OPENING ACT. IT'S TIME TO *REALLY* GET THE SHOW STARTED.

45 HITS

17 HITS

ICE-COLD COMBO!

CUTTING COMBO!

66 HITS

275 HITS

FACE BREAK!

18 HITS

RICKED THE ROCK!

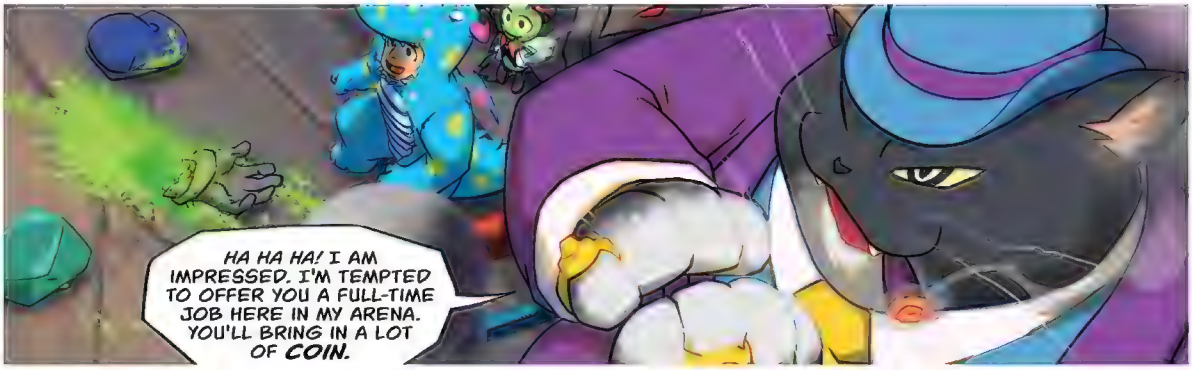
K.O. COMBO!

10,000 HITS

GUT BOMB!

18 HITS

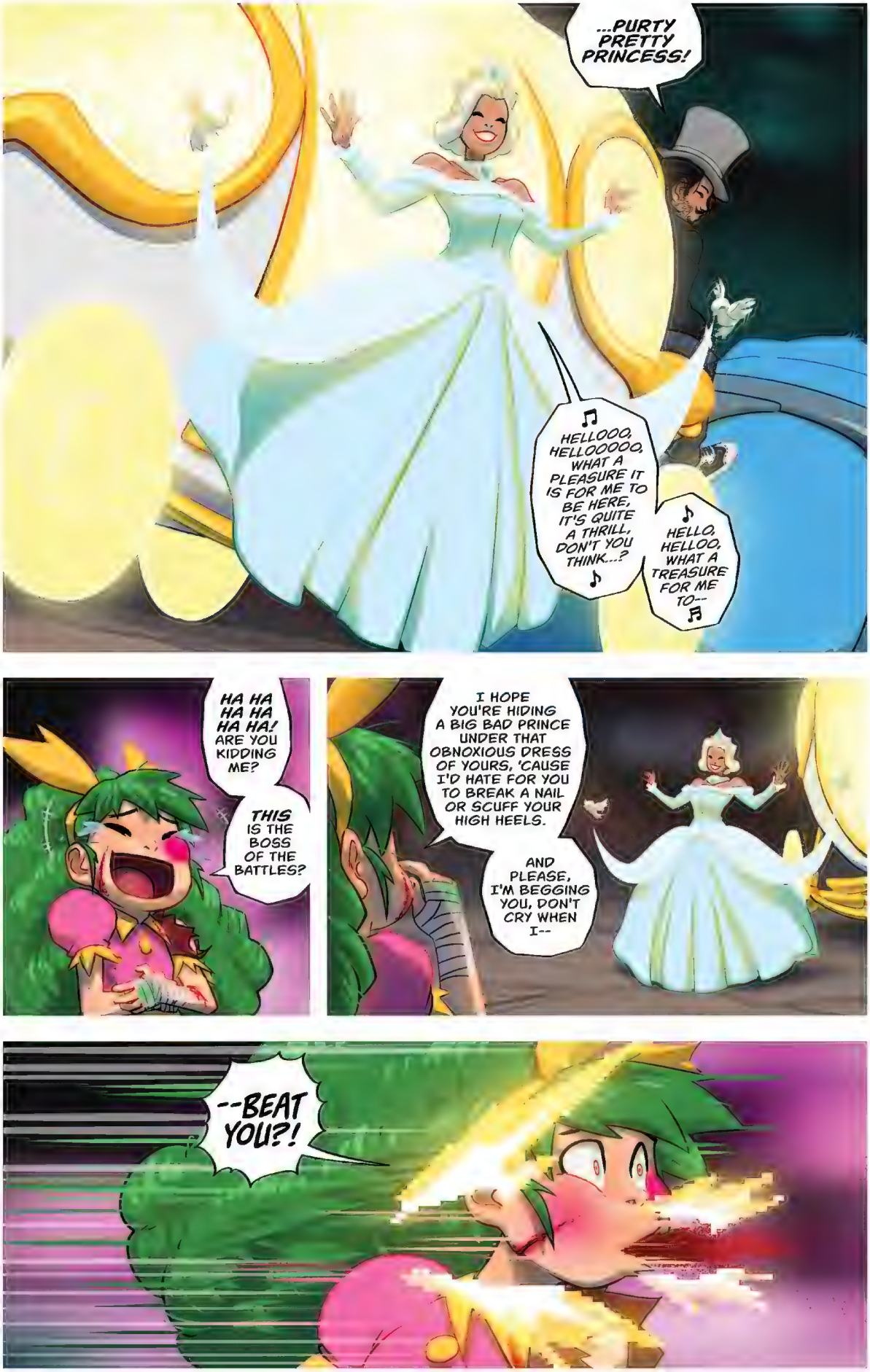
FACE FATALITY!


HA HA HA! I AM IMPRESSED. I'M TEMPTED TO OFFER YOU A FULL-TIME JOB HERE IN MY ARENA. YOU'LL BRING IN A LOT OF COIN.

THANKS, BUT I BEAT ALL YOUR LACKIES. I'LL TAKE MY PRIZE AND BE ON MY WAY.

GERTRUDE, YOU DISAPPOINT ME. BESIDES, YOU BEAT ALMOST EVERYONE.
NOW, IT'S TIME TO FACE THE BOSS.

LADIES, GENTLEMEN, AND GREEN-HAIRED MISCREANTS, ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE THE APPLE OF MANY AN EYE, THE BELLE OF EVERY BALL, AND THE UNDEFEATED CHAMPION OF THE TOWER OF BATTLE...

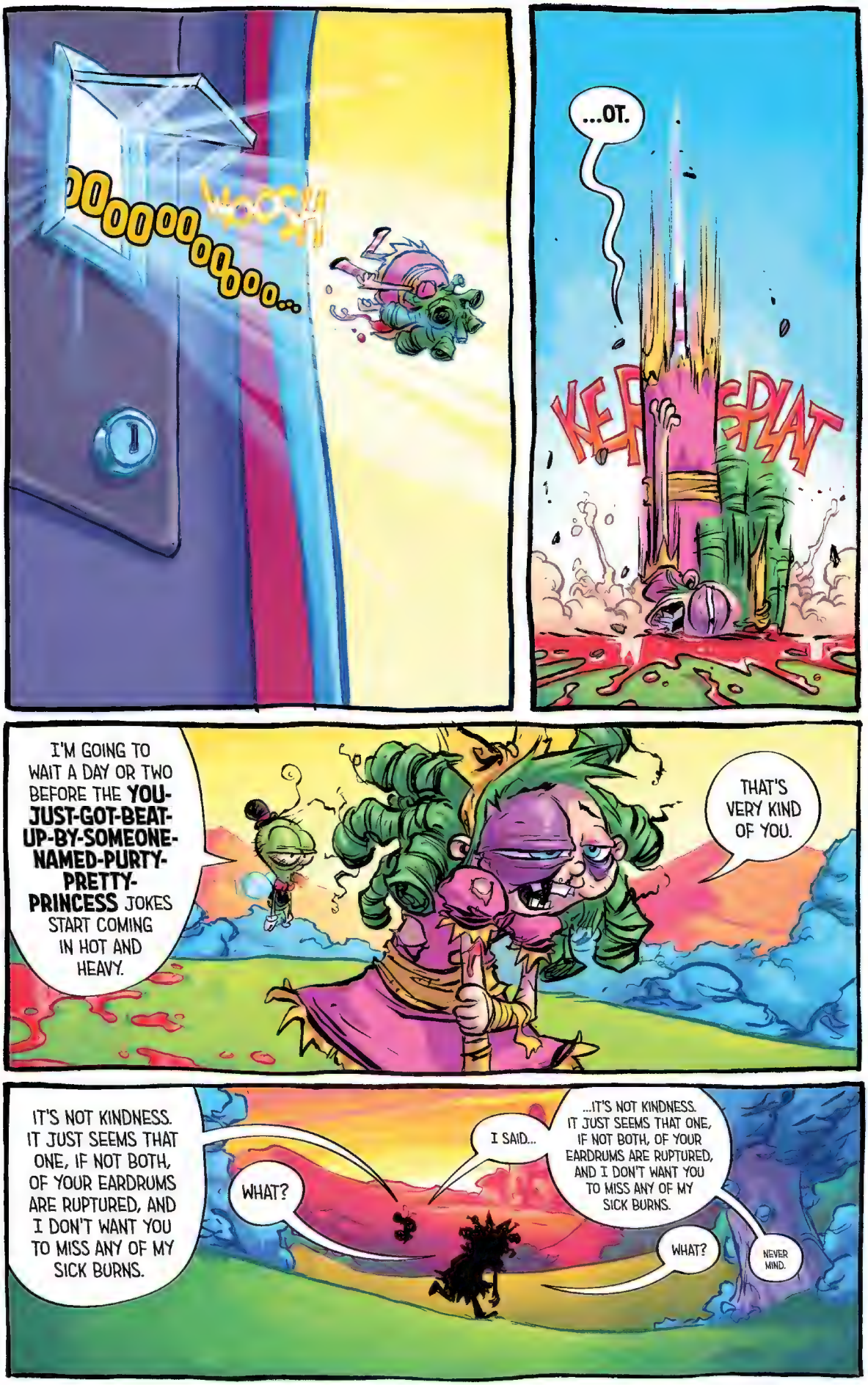

...PURTY PRETTY PRINCESS!
♫ HELLOOO, HELLOOOOO, WHAT A PLEASURE IT IS FOR ME TO BE HERE, IT'S QUITE A THRILL, DON'T YOU THINK...? ♪
♪ HELLO, HELLOO, WHAT A TREASURE FOR ME TO-- ♫
HA HA HA HA HA HA! ARE YOU KIDDING ME?
THIS IS THE BOSS OF THE BATTLES?
I HOPE YOU'RE HIDING A BIG BAD PRINCE UNDER THAT OBNOXIOUS DRESS OF YOURS, 'CAUSE I'D HATE FOR YOU TO BREAK A NAIL OR SCUFF YOUR HIGH HEELS.
AND PLEASE, I'M BEGGING YOU, DON'T CRY WHEN I--
--BEAT YOU?!

YOU OF ALL PEOPLE KNOW, THERE'S MORE TO A PERSON THAN WHAT'S ON THE OUTSIDE.
I CAN BE THIS...
...AND I CAN BE THIS.
I'M FLUFFED, AIN'T I?
HA HA HA HA! YUP. SO FLUFFING FLUFFED! HA HA HA!
THOUGHT SO.

2,000,000,000
HITS
ROYAL RAMPAGE!

HARDCORE HIGH HEEL COMBO!
PURITY PUNCH!
RESPECT THE CROWN COMBO!
FANCY FATALITY!
PURTY PRETTY PRINCESS WINS!

I HATE TO ADMIT THIS BECAUSE ALL OF MY INNARDS ARE BROKEN...
...BUT SHE IS FLUFFING AWESOME!
INDEED SHE IS.
BAD NEWS FOR YOU, THOUGH. NO CODE, NO GOING HOME.
AS FOR ME?
I GOT MYSELF A NEW DRAGON! I SEE BIG THINGS FOR THIS LITTLE GUY. GOING TO TURN HIM INTO A REAL CONTENDER.
GERT! YOU'LL COME BACK FOR ME, WON'T YOU?
I'M GOING TO BE HONEST WITH YOU...
...PROBABLY NOOOOOOOOO


OOOOOOOOOO...
...OT.
KER-SPLAT
I'M GOING TO WAIT A DAY OR TWO BEFORE THE YOU-JUST-GOT-BEAT-UP-BY-SOMEONE-NAMED-PURTY-PRETTY-PRINCESS JOKES START COMING IN HOT AND HEAVY.
THAT'S VERY KIND OF YOU.
IT'S NOT KINDNESS. IT JUST SEEMS THAT ONE, IF NOT BOTH, OF YOUR EARDRUMS ARE RUPTURED, AND I DON'T WANT YOU TO MISS ANY OF MY SICK BURNS.
WHAT?
I SAID...
...IT'S NOT KINDNESS. IT JUST SEEMS THAT ONE, IF NOT BOTH, OF YOUR EARDRUMS ARE RUPTURED, AND I DON'T WANT YOU TO MISS ANY OF MY SICK BURNS.
WHAT?
NEVER MIND.

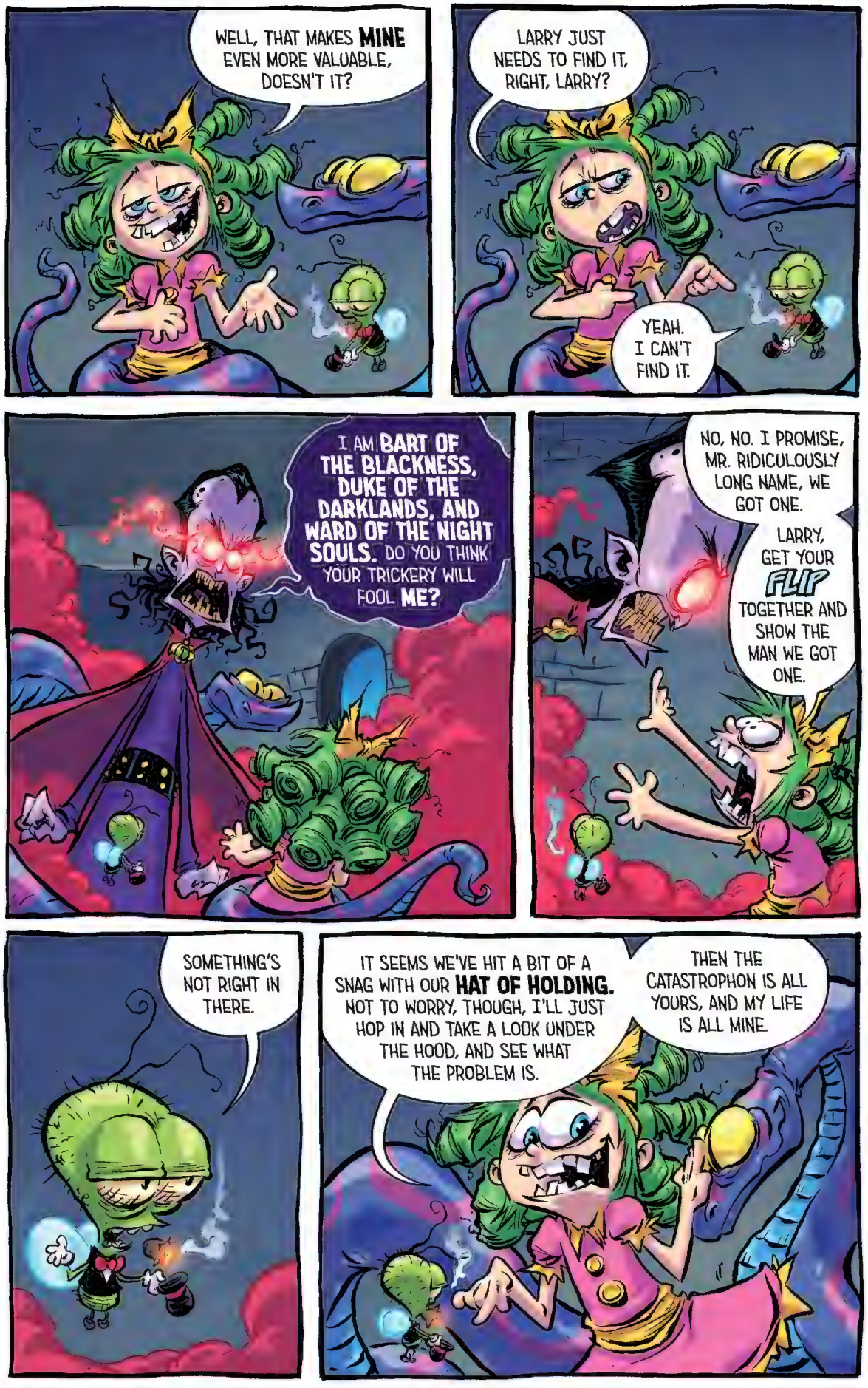
1UP

NINE

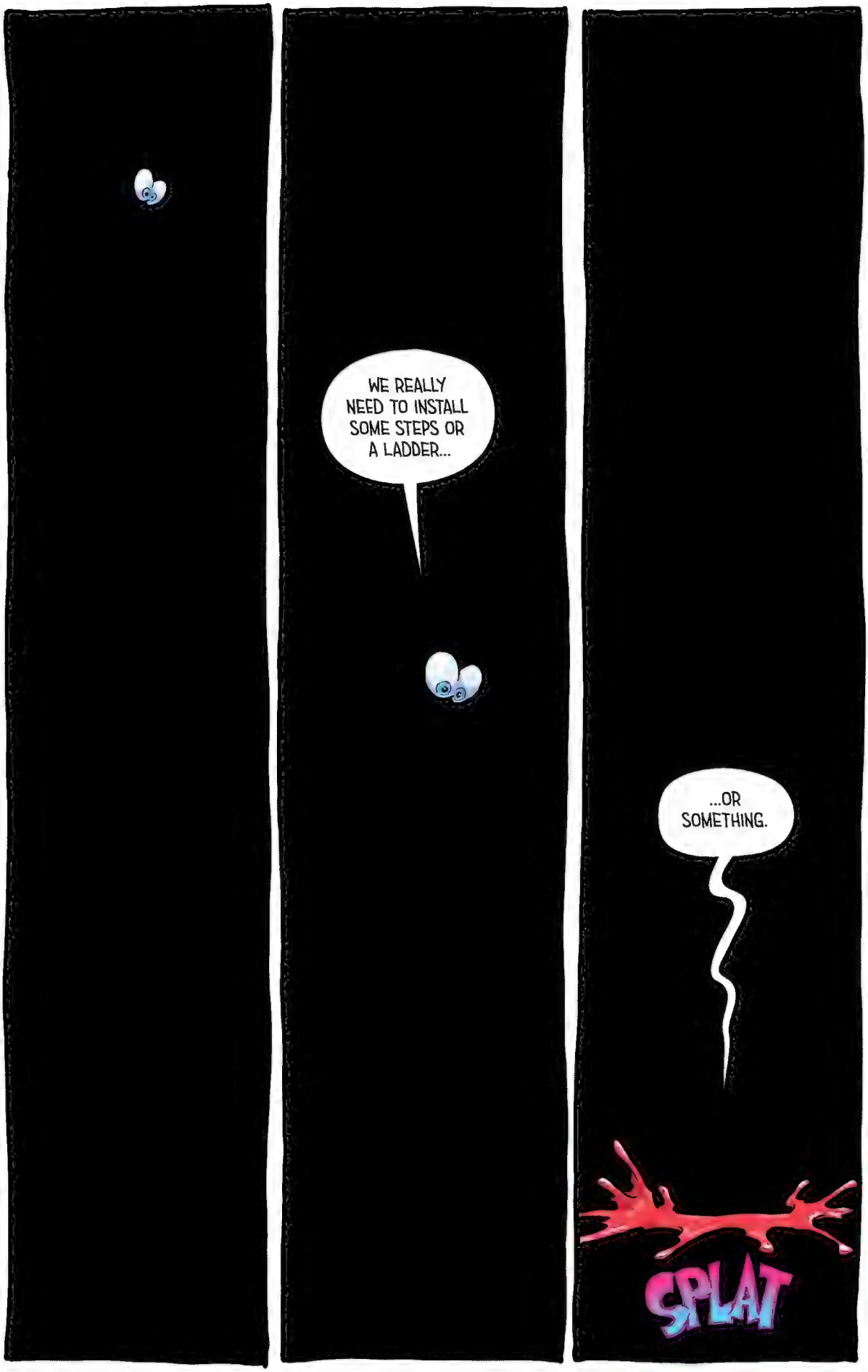
GONNA BE HARD TO BEAT A FULL KNIGHT'S BONE.
MAYBE, UNLESS I DROP A QUEEN BOMB ON DECK.
NICE JOB. BUT THAT'S NOTHING COMPARED TO THIS KING'S POWER ROD I'M HOLDING!
I'M NOT SURE WHICH OF YOU DARK WIZARD AND WITCH PERVS INVENTED THIS GAME...
...BUT READ 'EM AND WEEP, YA BUNCH OF CREEPS!
HOW ABOUT THIS DIRTY HUNTSMAN RIGHT UP INSIDE YOUR SASS?!
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT, YA'LL CAN'T SEE ME!
COME TO MAMMA, SWEET GOLD DOUBLOONS!
NOT SO FAST, GERTRUDE.

I BELIEVE THIS MAY BEAT THAT HUNTSMAN OF YOURS.
N-N-NO. IT CAN'T BE.
SAY IT.
PLEASE, NO.
SAY IT!
IT'S A TWO TROLLS, ONE BRIDGE!

I DON'T LIKE YOU VERY MUCH.
I'LL HAVE TO FIND A WAY TO LIVE WITH THAT.
IN THE MEANTIME, THERE'S THE SMALL MATTER OF YOU BEING A FEW THOUSAND SHORT ON THE BET.
BUT SIR, I'M JUST A CUTE LITTLE GIRL FROM A FAR-AWAY LAND, ALONE AND AFRAID AND INNOCENT AND PURE, AND ALL THE OTHER STUFF.
LET'S SAY YOU LET ME GO WITH A FIRM SCOLDING AND A WARNING ON THE DANGERS OF GAMBLING.
HMMM. SOUNDS INTERESTING.
BUT I WAS THINKING MORE ALONG THE LINES OF LETTING **MR. SLITHERINGTON** DEVOUR YOU WHOLE.
NO! WAIT! I DON'T HAVE ANY MORE MONEY AND I CAN SEE YOU CLEARLY HAVE A LOVE FOR PETS WITH AN **EDGE.**
WHAT IF I TOLD YOU I HAVE A **CATASTROPHON!**
WHAT?! I THOUGHT THEY WERE EXTINCT.


WELL, THAT MAKES MINE EVEN MORE VALUABLE, DOESN'T IT?
LARRY JUST NEEDS TO FIND IT, RIGHT, LARRY?
YEAH. I CAN'T FIND IT.
I AM BART OF THE BLACKNESS, DUKE OF THE DARKLANDS, AND WARD OF THE NIGHT SOULS. DO YOU THINK YOUR TRICKERY WILL FOOL ME?
NO, NO. I PROMISE, MR. RIDICULOUSLY LONG NAME, WE GOT ONE.
LARRY, GET YOUR FLIP TOGETHER AND SHOW THE MAN WE GOT ONE.
SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT IN THERE.
IT SEEMS WE'VE HIT A BIT OF A SNAG WITH OUR HAT OF HOLDING. NOT TO WORRY, THOUGH, I'LL JUST HOP IN AND TAKE A LOOK UNDER THE HOOD, AND SEE WHAT THE PROBLEM IS.
THEN THE CATASTROPHON IS ALL YOURS, AND MY LIFE IS ALL MINE.

FINE, BUT IF YOU'RE NOT BACK BEFORE THE LAST GRAIN FALLS, YOU WILL LEARN HOW IT FEELS TO BE DIGESTED IN THE BELLY OF MY BEAST.
LET ME GUESS, IT'S NOT PLEASANT?
OF COURSE NOT.
GOTCHA.
SEE YA IN A FEW!
SO. YEAH. UM...
ANYONE CATCH THE SEASON FINALE OF *BROAD CITY* LAST NIGHT? THOSE TWO JUST CRACK ME UP.


WE REALLY NEED TO INSTALL SOME STEPS OR A LADDER...
...OR SOMETHING.
SPLAT

WHY IS IT SO DARK IN HERE?
THERE SHOULD BE A LIGHT SWITCH AROUND HERE...
...SOMEWHERE!
KLANG
STUPID HUGGING MAGICAL HAT, YOU THINK WE'D HAVE SOMETHING AT LEAST AS ADVANCED AS THE CLAPPER INSTALLED!
BUT NOOOOOO...
...OOOOOO-- FLUFF?

WELL, THIS DOESN'T BODE WELL.

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I'VE BEEN IN HERE. I DIDN'T REALIZE WE BECAME HOARDERS OVER THE LAST THIRTY YEARS.
TURN BACK! LEAVE NOW OR YOU WILL DIE!
HUH?
LOOKS LIKE I'LL BE NEEDING ONE OF THESE.
YOU WILL DIE! YOU WILL DIE! YOU WILL DIE!
WE'LL SEE WHO'S GONNA DO THE DYING, YOU SON OF A LICH!

PLEASE, NO! I MEAN YOU NO HARM.
SORRY, MAN. I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU WERE JUST A HAT GNOME.
WHY DID YOU THREATEN TO KILL ME IF I DIDN'T LEAVE?
IT'S NOT ME THAT WILL KILL YOU, MISS. IT'S- IT'S--
IT'S-IT'S- IT'S--
SPIT IT OUT, QUIRK-OFF!
IT'S--

IT'S—
GUNT
THE LYNTS!
HGGGKHH...*

GERT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE COMING BACK ANY TIME SOON, SO YOU HAVE A VERY IMPORTANT CHOICE TO MAKE.
YOU'RE RIGHT. IT'S JUST THAT... I DON'T KNOW HOW TO DECIDE BETWEEN THE TWO. THEY'RE BOTH VERY IMPORTANT TO ME.
QUIT BEING SO DRAMATIC. IT'S PIZZA!
SO FOR THE LAST TIME, DO YOU WANT GORGON HORN AND PINEAPPLE, OR CANDIED TENTACLES AND HABANERO BLOOGLE EYES?
FLUFF IT. CARBS, SCHMARBS. I'LL TAKE ONE OF EACH.
WHAT DO YOU THINK IS TAKING HER SO LONG?
WHO KNOWS. WE GOT LOTS OF OLD STUFF IN THERE. SHE'S PROBABLY JUST TAKING A STROLL DOWN MEMORY LANE.

NO! I DON'T REMEMBER ANY OF IT! I'M SORRY.
I'M JUST HERE LOOKING FOR THE CATASTROPHON.
YOU HEAR THAT, EVERYONE, GERT IS SORRY FOR RIPPING US AWAY FROM OUR LIVES FOR HER OWN SELFISH, MINDLESS PLOT!
YOU GRABBED **PORKLY** FROM HIS BARN THREE WINTERS AGO AND INTENDED TO TRADE HIM FOR WHAT?
AN UPGRADE ON A WEEKEND PACKAGE AT WOLF'S FULL MOON SPA.
COMPTELEY WORTH TEARING A FAMILY APART.
AND THAT'S NOTHING COMPARED TO THIS POOR GUSTARD!
PRINCE PERFECT HERE WAS SUPPOSED BE DELIVERED TO HIS PRINCESS SIXTEEN YEARS AGO.
MY PRINCESS? *HUH, HUH, HUH.* I LUV **YOU.**

HERE WE ARE. WE BAND OF THE FORGOTTEN. GERT'S MISFITS FIGHTING AN INFESTATION.
LAMBS TO THE SLAUGHTER BECAUSE YOU AND LARRY CAN'T MAKE SANITATION A PRIORITY.
WOULD IT KILL YOU TO TAKE A SHOWER OR DROP THE HAT OFF AT THE DRY CLEANERS?
SHURLY CURLY, THE LYNTS ARE HERE! THE BARRICADE WON'T HOLD FOR MUCH LONGER!
GOOD! I'M TIRED OF HIDING. IF TODAY'S OUR DAY TO DIE, LET'S TAKE AS MANY OF THESE MUFFIN HUGGERS WITH US ON THE WAY OUT!
FROM WHAT I REMEMBER, YOU'RE NOT TOO SHABBY WITH ONE OF THESE. IT'S THE LEAST YOU CAN DO FOR IMPRISONING US ALL FOR NO REASON.
HELP US, AND IF WE MAKE IT THROUGH, I'LL GET YOU YOUR CATASTROPHON.
DEAL!

ATTACK!
I KNOW I SCREWED YOU OVER, AND YOU PROBABLY HATE MY GUTS, BUT I GOTTA SAY, I LIKE YOU, SHURLY CURLY.
THANKS!
NO, I MEAN IT. YOU'RE A HARDCORE, INDEPENDENT WOMAN! I THINK WE COULD REALLY BE FRIENDS AFTER ALL THIS IS...
...OVER.
NOOOOOOOO!
THIS WAS POTENTIALLY MY BEST FRIEND IN THE WHOLE WORLD AND YOU STOLE HER FROM ME!
WHYYYYY?

WHY?!
OH, WHY?!
WHYYYY?!
GERT, WE'VE GOT A VERY BIG PROBLEM.
FLUFF ME.
LARRY, WE'VE GOT ANOTHER QUEEN PROBLEM!

LARRY! I'M GONNA NEED SOME HELP!
LARRY! ARE YOU THERE?!
DO YOU HEAR SOMETHING, SUGAR?
NOPE.

LARRY, HELP! HELP ME! HELLLLLP!
I DON'T HEAR A THING.

KLANG
KLANG

I'M NOT SURE WHY THE HAT GNOMES HAVE A **BOX LOADER** WITH A **PLASMA CANNON** ATTACHED...

...BUT I'M SURE AS SPELL GOING TO PUT IT TO GOOD USE.

EAT THIS, **QUEEN BI--**

SHOOM

CHOMP
CHOMP
OKAY, SHE TOOK THAT VERY LITERALLY. BAD CHOICE OF WORDS ON MY PART.

IF ANYONE CAN HEAR ME, I COULD USE A LAST SECOND LIFE-SAVER ANY TIME NOW!

GUH?!

WHOA.
IT WORKED.
SKREEE SKREE
SKREEEEEE
NOT SURE
I'LL EVER SLEEP
AGAIN AFTER
SEEING THAT.

AWWW, YOU CUTE, LITTLE CATASTROPHON. YOU DIDN'T MAKE IT IN TIME TO SAVE THE REST OF THE POOR SAPS I ACCIDENTALLY FORGOT THAT I KIDNAPPED THROUGH THE YEARS,

BUT YOU **DID** SAVE ME, AND THAT'S REALLY THE MOST IMPORTANT THING.

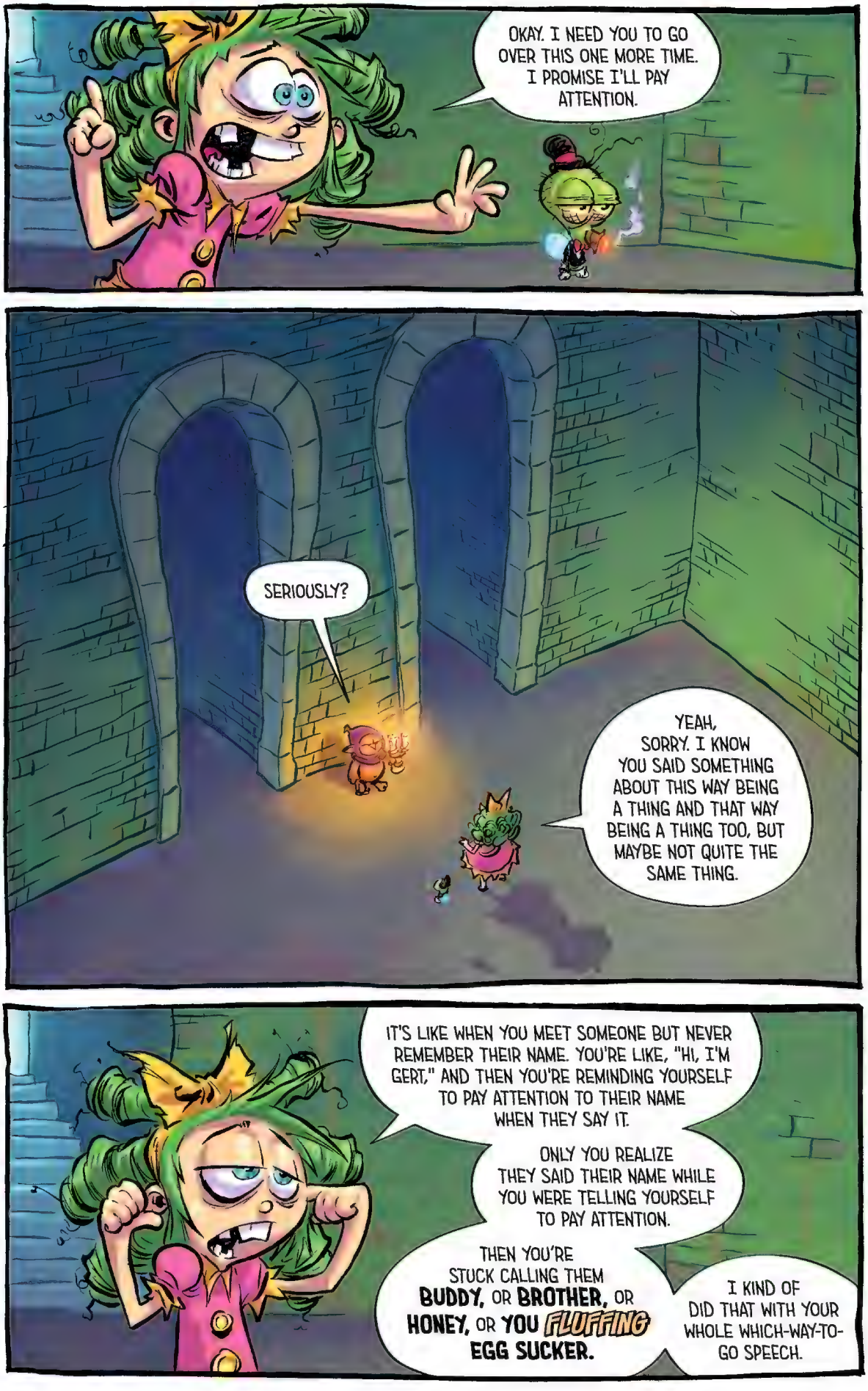
I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU HAD SUCH A **BIG** APPETITE.

HOPEFULLY YOU SAVED ROOM FOR DESSERT. HOW DO YOU LIKE DARK WIZARDS?

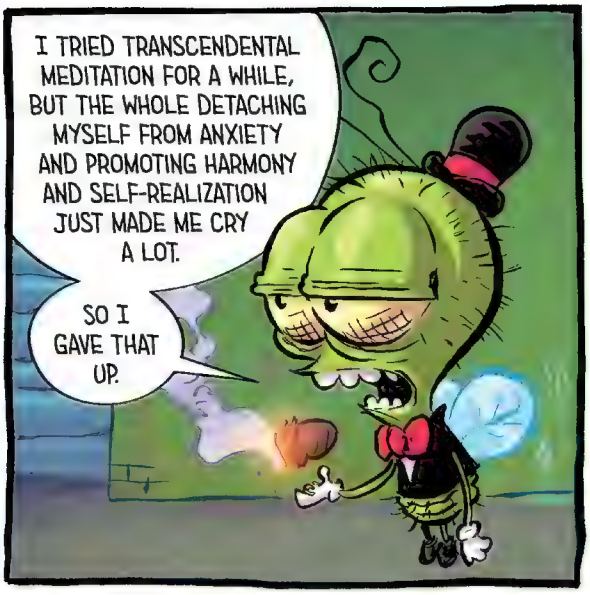
MEOW.

LYNTS, HUH? I GUESS I SHOULDN'T SKIP THE ANNUAL DISINFECTING ANYMORE.
PROBABLY NOT.
HEY, IS THAT A HICKEY ON YOUR NECK?
WHAT? WHERE? UM...NO. THAT'S, UH...THEY WERE SUPER ROUGH ON ME WHILE YOU WERE INSIDE.
TIED ME UP, BEAT ME, CHOKED ME...ALL TYPES OF DARK STUFF.
TORTURE, HUH? DO DARK WIZARDS OFTEN USE LAVENDER VANILLA MASSAGE OIL WHILE TORTURING THEIR "VICTIMS"?
LIKE I SAID, THEY'RE TWISTED.
SLAT

TEN


OKAY. I NEED YOU TO GO OVER THIS ONE MORE TIME. I PROMISE I'LL PAY ATTENTION.
SERIOUSLY?
YEAH, SORRY. I KNOW YOU SAID SOMETHING ABOUT THIS WAY BEING A THING AND THAT WAY BEING A THING TOO, BUT MAYBE NOT QUITE THE SAME THING.
IT'S LIKE WHEN YOU MEET SOMEONE BUT NEVER REMEMBER THEIR NAME. YOU'RE LIKE, "HI, I'M GERT," AND THEN YOU'RE REMINDING YOURSELF TO PAY ATTENTION TO THEIR NAME WHEN THEY SAY IT.
ONLY YOU REALIZE THEY SAID THEIR NAME WHILE YOU WERE TELLING YOURSELF TO PAY ATTENTION.
THEN YOU'RE STUCK CALLING THEM BUDDY, OR BROTHER, OR HONEY, OR YOU FLUFFING EGG SUCKER.
I KIND OF DID THAT WITH YOUR WHOLE WHICH-WAY-TO-GO SPEECH.

HOW DO YOU DEAL WITH THIS?


I TRIED TRANSCENDENTAL MEDITATION FOR A WHILE, BUT THE WHOLE DETACHING MYSELF FROM ANXIETY AND PROMOTING HARMONY AND SELF-REALIZATION JUST MADE ME CRY A LOT.
SO I GAVE THAT UP.

WHAT DO YOU DO INSTEAD?

OH, I STILL JUST CRY A LOT. MORE, ACTUALLY, SINCE I DON'T HAVE TO WASTE ANY TIME WITH THE MEDITATING.
REALLY HELPS.

I CAN CO-SIGN THAT. SOMETIMES I SNEAK UP WHILE HE'S IN THE MIDDLE OF A ROCK-SOLID CRYING SESH AND I CAN TOTALLY FEEL THE PAIN JUST LEAVING HIS SAD LITTLE BODY.

ANYWAY, P-P-PLEASE CONTINUE.

IT'S REALLY SIMPLE. IF YOU MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICE, YOU WILL FIND THAT ALL OF YOUR DREAMS WILL COME TRUE AT THE END OF THE CORRIDOR.
YOU HEAR THAT, LARRY? ONE OF THESE HALLWAYS LEADS **HOME.** AFTER ALL THESE ISSUES... I MEAN, **YEARS** OF SPINNING OUR WHEELS...WE'RE SO **CLOSE.**
BWAAAAHAAHAA!
BEHIND EVERY **RIGHT,** THERE LIES THE **WRONG.** CHOOSE POORLY, AND THE PATH YOU SEEK WILL BE BATHED IN **DARKNESS.**
THAT DOESN'T SOUND ALL THAT BAD. WE HAVE PLENTY OF LANTERNS.
HOW DARK OF A BATH ARE WE TALKING?
STUPID GIRL! ALL THE FLAMES IN **FAIRYLAND** WOULD NOT BRING YOU BACK INTO THE LIGHT.
IN FACT...

"...THE FLAMES WILL ONLY HELP DRIVE THE LIGHT OUT...

"...ONE HUNDRED YEARS FROM NOW."

THIS IS WORSE THAN I IMAGINED.

I'M WITH LARRY. I IMAGINED SOME REALLY BAD THINGS, THEN IT STARTED AND IT'S DEFINITELY WORSE.

YOU SAID IT, HORRIBELLA. IT'S SUPER WAY WORSE.

LIKE, MY MIND SAW REALLY TERRIBLE THINGS, AND THEN **BAM!**

REALITY. WORSE.

YOU ALL READ MY MIND.

DEFINITELY WORSE THAN--

OKAY! I GET IT!

LOOK, I KNOW--I REALLY **NOODLED THE CABOODLE** ALL THOSE YEARS AGO WITH THE HALLWAY, AND THE CHOICE, AND THE NOT-REALLY-LISTENING THING.
EVERY TIME SOMETHING HAS GONE WRONG FOR THE LAST ONE HUNDRED YEARS, YOU ALL BRING THAT DAY UP LIKE I FORGOT.
WE JUST ADDED THIS GUY TO OUR MERRY BAND THREE DAYS AGO, AND HE'S BROUGHT IT UP **SIX TIMES.**
JUST WANT TO DO MY PART, CARRY MY OWN WEIGHT AND ALL.
FLUFF **YOU,** JUDD.
RIGHT ON!
OKAY, I THINK WE CAN ALL AGREE THAT GERT'S RESPONSIBLE FOR US STANDING ON THE EDGE OF **FAIRYLAND'S** LAST DAY. LET'S EASE UP AND SEE IF WE CAN FIX HER MISTAKE.
THANK YOU, LARRY.

JUDD, BOT, HORRIBELLA, AND THE REST OF YOU, KEEP THE SMALLER ONES OCCUPIED LONG ENOUGH FOR ME AND THE COUNCIL OF IMMORTAL MAGI TO CONJURE A BINDING TETHER...
...AND TRANSFER THE SOUL'S ETHER CORE TO A PLANE MADE MANIFEST FROM THE PRIMITIVE EYE OF ORGON, AND THEN...
ME AND THE WIZARD WARRIORS WILL TRY TO KILL DUNCAN DRAGON.
YEAH! KILL HIM!
WE'RE FLUFFED.

A CENTURY OF GERT'S ABUSE ON DUNCAN HAS MANIFESTED AS THIS BEAST OF FAIRYLAND'S APOCALYPSE...

HOLD NOTHING BACK, FOR THIS IS OUR LAST STAND!

THAT KAIJU KID JUST WIPED OUT THE WIZARDS. SHOULD WE ATTACK NOW?

BETWEEN THEM, THEY HAD MORE MAGIC THAN ALL THE MAGES IN FAIRYLAND PUT TOGETHER. NOT SURE WHAT MY AX AND YOUR ABSURDLY DISPROPORTIONATE SWORD CAN DO.

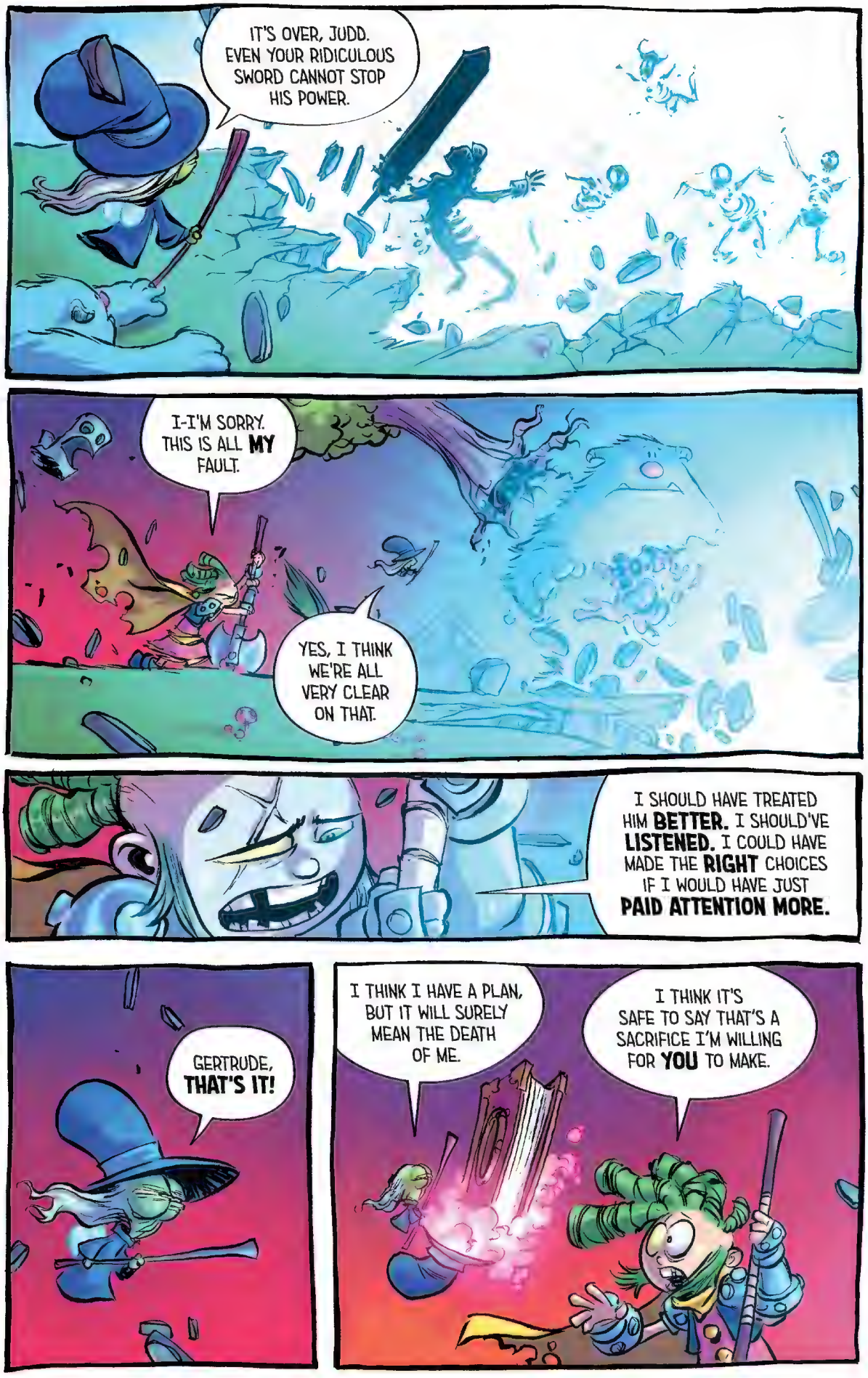
OUR ATTEMPTS TO BIND HIM HAVE FAILED, BUT WITH ANY LUCK, WE MAY HAVE WEAKENED HIM A BIT.

BASED ON HIS EXPRESSION...

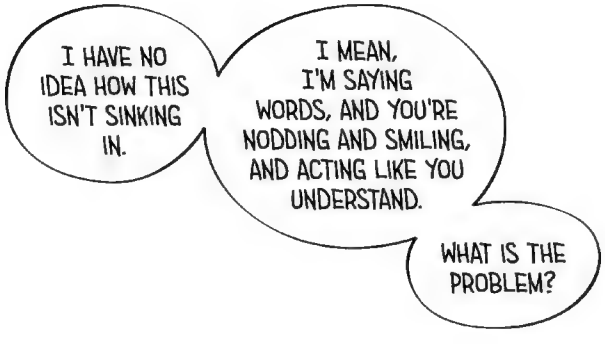
...I'M WILLING TO BET ON US NOT HAVING ANY LUCK.

I WAS AFRAID OF THIS. A CENTURY OF ABUSE, NEGLECT, AND BETRAYAL AT THE HANDS OF GERTRUDE IS ABOUT TO BE UNLEASHED, AND...

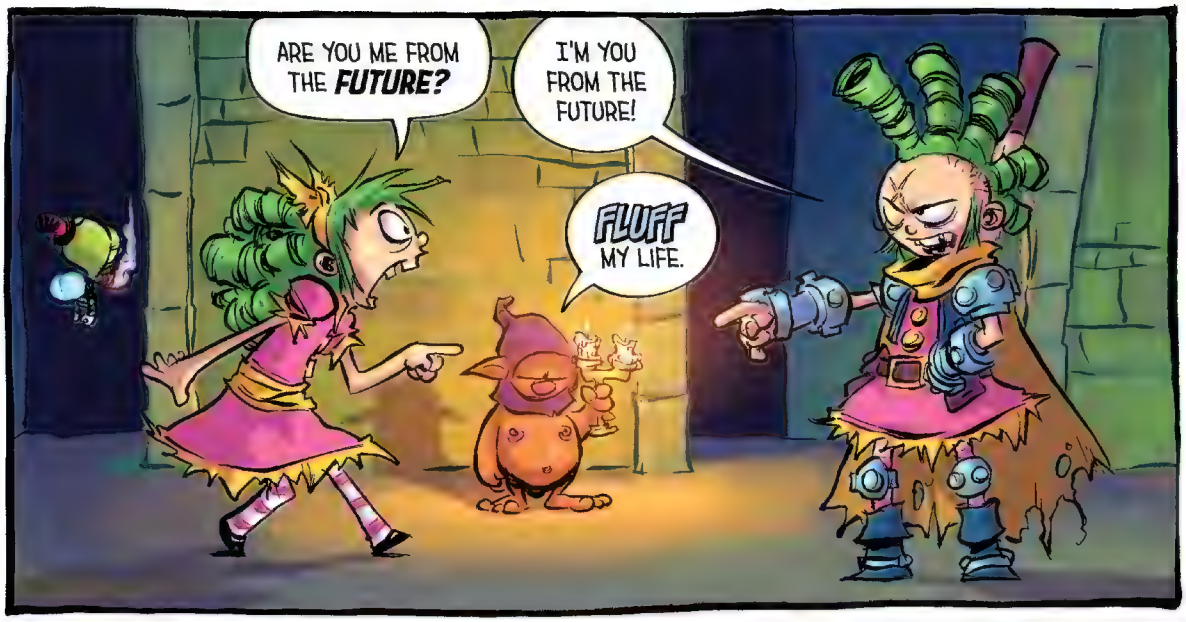
...FAIRYLAND WILL BE **NO MORE.**

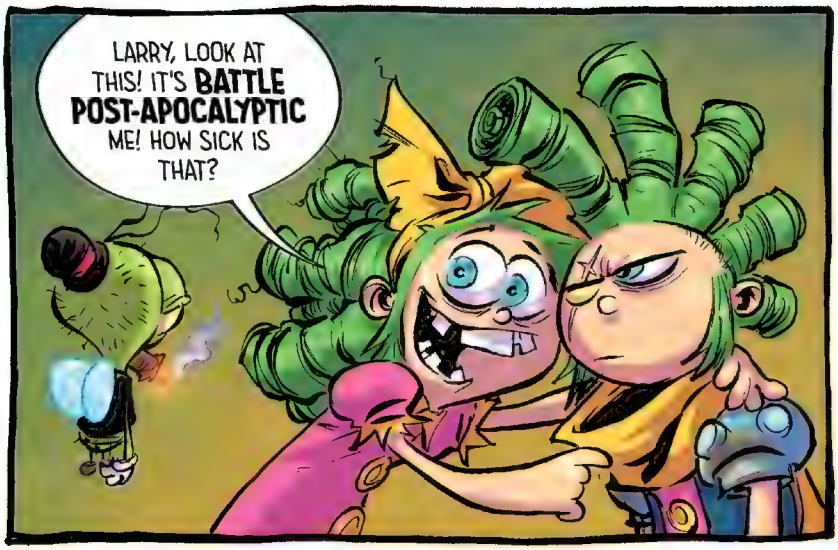

IT'S OVER, JUDD. EVEN YOUR RIDICULOUS SWORD CANNOT STOP HIS POWER.
I-I'M SORRY. THIS IS ALL **MY** FAULT.
YES, I THINK WE'RE ALL VERY CLEAR ON THAT.
I SHOULD HAVE TREATED HIM **BETTER.** I SHOULD'VE **LISTENED.** I COULD HAVE MADE THE **RIGHT** CHOICES IF I WOULD HAVE JUST **PAID ATTENTION MORE.**
GERTRUDE, **THAT'S IT!**
I THINK I HAVE A PLAN, BUT IT WILL SURELY MEAN THE DEATH OF ME.
I THINK IT'S SAFE TO SAY THAT'S A SACRIFICE I'M WILLING FOR **YOU** TO MAKE.

I'M GOING TO SEND YOU BACK TO WHERE IT ALL WENT WRONG. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS GIVE YOURSELF THE KNOWLEDGE TO MAKE THE **RIGHT** CHOICES.
THAT'S **ALL?** I JUST HAVE TO EXPLAIN TO MYSELF WHICH WAY TO GO?
Y-Y-YES. JUST BE VERY CLEAR. YOU KNOW H-HOW EASILY YOU GET--
--CONFUSED.
GERT IS GONE AND THE WORLD IS ENDING BEFORE MY VERY EYES...AND ALL I CAN SAY IS...
...**FINALLY!**


I HAVE NO IDEA HOW THIS ISN'T SINKING IN.
I MEAN, I'M SAYING WORDS, AND YOU'RE NODDING AND SMILING, AND ACTING LIKE YOU UNDERSTAND.
WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

I'M SORRY, I REALLY AM.
I TOTALLY GET WHAT YOU'VE BEEN SAYING ABOUT DREAMS COMING TRUE, AND DARKNESS TAKING OVER THE WORLD, AND WHAT-NOT, BUT STILL...HARD TO DECIDE, YOU KNOW?
JUST GO WITH YOUR GUT. OR FLIP A COIN. OR CLOSE YOUR EYES AND INNIE-MEANIE-MINIE-MOE IT.
BUT DEFINITELY **GO.** PLEASE.
ALL RIGHT. I THINK I'LL GO--
STOP!


ARE YOU ME FROM THE FUTURE?
I'M YOU FROM THE FUTURE!
FLUFF MY LIFE.


LARRY, LOOK AT THIS! IT'S BATTLE POST-APOCALYPTIC ME! HOW SICK IS THAT?

BWAAAAAA!

PAY ATTENTION. I KNOW ALL THE CHOICES YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE AND THEY'RE ALL WRONG.
YOU MUST LISTEN TO ME. BUT NOT LISTEN LIKE, "THINK ABOUT LISTENING BUT THEN YOU DON'T LISTEN BECAUSE YOU'RE TOO BUSY THINKING ABOUT LISTENING."
REALLY LISTEN!
YOU GOT IT! I'M ALL EARS.

OKAY, FIRST YOU MUST...

THREE HOURS LATER...
...AND IT'S AS SIMPLE AS THAT.
YOU'LL BE HOME INSTEAD OF DESTROYING FAIRYLAND AND EVERYONE WHO LIVES HERE.

YOU GET ALL THAT?
EVERY LAST WORD.
YOU'RE **POSITIVE?** EVEN THE PART WITH THE **LOOPY SIPS?**
ESPECIALLY THE LOOPY SIPS.
THANKS FOR EVERYTHING. AND DON'T WORRY...
...FAIRYLAND WILL BE SAFE AND SOUND NOW.

DIDN'T LISTEN TO YOU, DID SHE?
NOPE. NOT A WORD.
ARE YOU GOING TO CEASE TO EXIST BECAUSE OF THE TIME PARADOX THING?
YUP.
I THINK I PICKED THE WRONG WAY!

VARIANT COVERS

SY
15

SKOTTIE YOUNG
2015

SY
15

SLUG
LIFE

AFTER
ROMITA, SR.

ISSUE #6 SCRIPT

PAGE 1

1. Est. Coliseum.

2. Shot of big, hardcore Seuss-style warrior.

WARRIOR
For centuries my people have had to stomach the existence of your kind.

3. Shot of a little Seuss-like warrior. Big, cute, marble eyes.

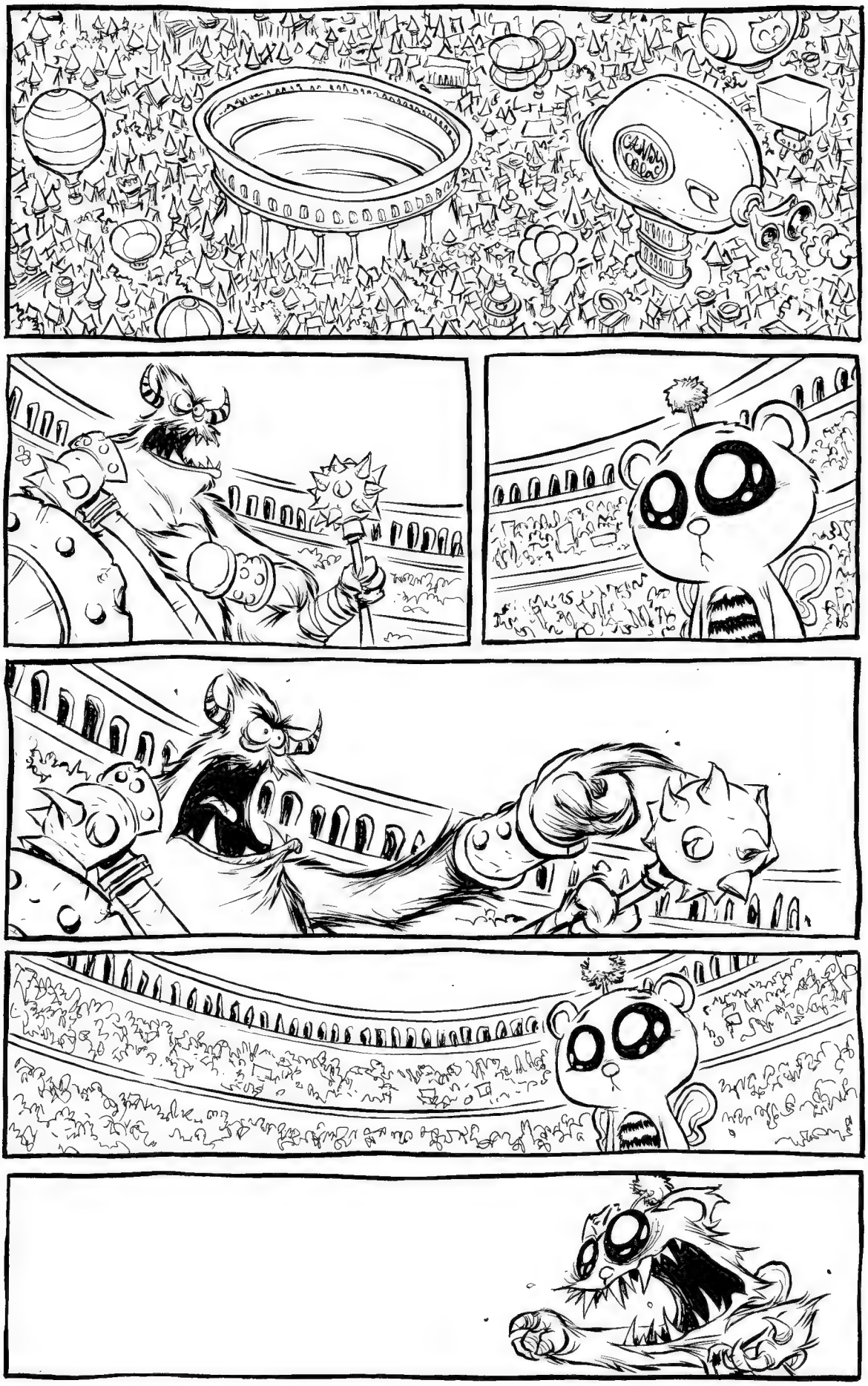
4. On big warrior.

WARRIOR
Today, I will spill your blood and place your entrails on my neck like the medals bestowed to our warriors upon returning from battle against you putrid monsters.
(cont)
Are you prepared to meet THE CREATOR?

5. Shot of little warrior.

6. Same shot but now the little warrior looks insanely evil and hardcore.

LITTLE WARRIOR
LET'S DO THIS!



PAGE 2

The two jumping at each other with the crowd behind them going wild.

Panels of them fighting.

PAGE 3

1. The little warrior deals the fatal blow.
Little warrior thrusts his hand into the chest of the big warrior.

LITTLE WARRIOR
You were right. We HAVE been a plague on your people for centuries.

BIG WARRIOR
GUH!

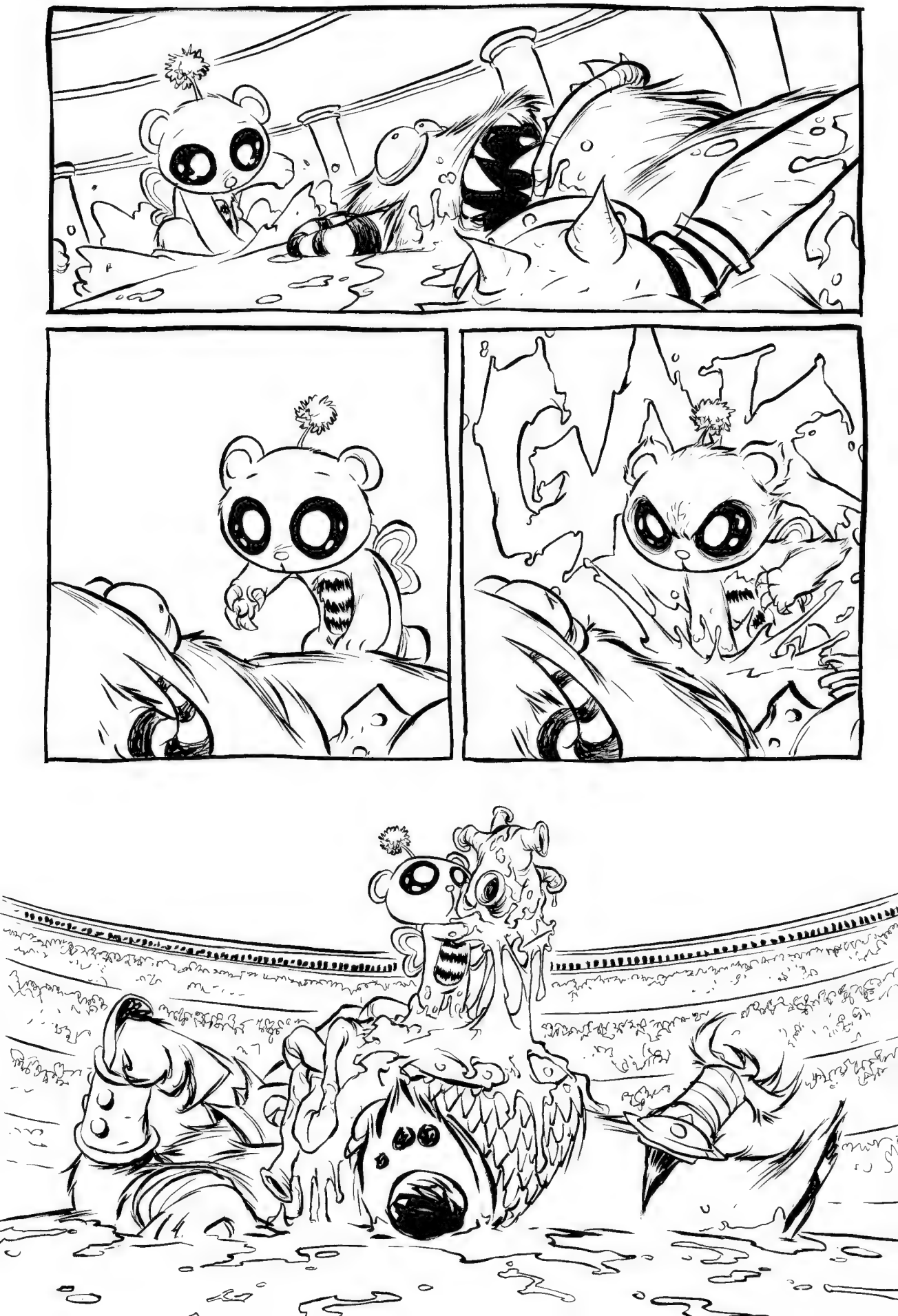
2. He gets in close.

LITTLE WARRIOR
And you will go into the next world knowing that we will CONTINUE to be a plague for centuries more.

3. He pulls the heart out.

4. He lifts the heart up as tribute.

LITTLE WARRIOR
I am HUP of THE BUFFLE TRUFFS, and I offer up tribute to our most powerful and glorious ruler...



PAGE 4

Full page.

1. Big shot of older, sexy, evil Queen Gert and her minions. The crowd is cheering.

LITTLE WARRIOR (VO)
...QUEEN GERTRUDE!

Title page. GERT OF THRONES

PAGE 5

1. Gert is addressing the crowd while blasting her evil powers.

GERT
That's right, you pieces of FLIP! BASK IN ALL MY EVIL GLORY!

2. Show the crowed. Someone got fried. The person next to her is excited.

PEASANT
OH MY! She KILLED my husband! Did you see that? She KILLED him so FLUFFING HARD!
(cont)
I wonder if she'll autograph him!

3. Gert is now in the crowd. People are holding up things asking her to sing them. One has contracts while most have bones, axes, etc.

PEASANT 1
Can you sign my husband's skull?

PEASANT 2
Will you sign my AX?

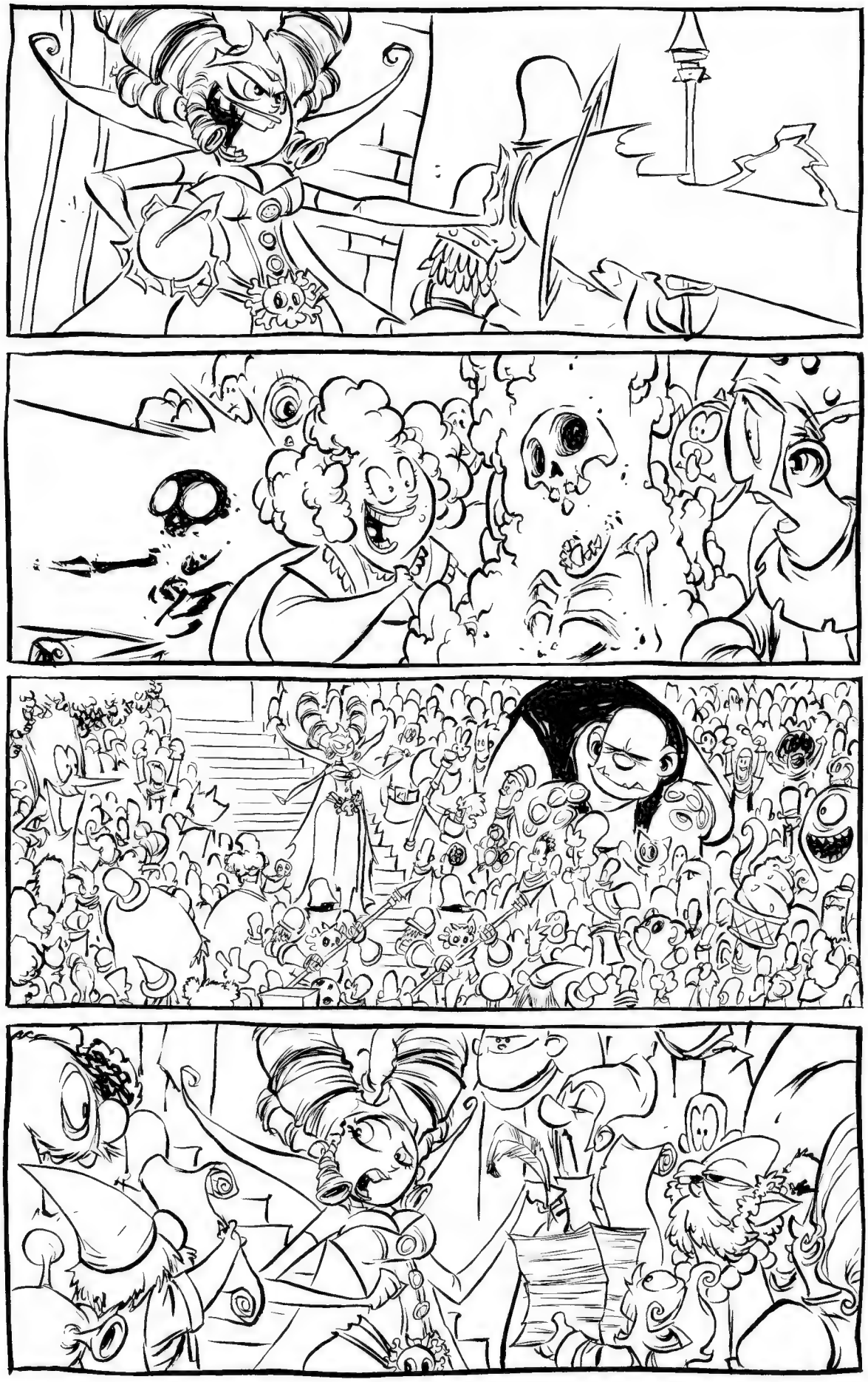
PEASANT 3
Will you sign these forms okaying the overtime for work on the SUGAR GLASS in the SOUTH TOWER?

4. Gert is looking confused. More questions like that are popping up.

PEASANT 4
Can you sign this? The TORTOISE LORDS need a guarantee that trade routes will remain open during the ONE HUNDRED YEAR.

GERT
Huh?

PEASANT 5
Oh, and don't forget you have the meeting with the COUNCIL OF JOY tomorrow. You'll need to sign these...in triplicate...



PAGE 6

1. On Gert, sleeping, drooling, holding a pen in her hand while resting on papers. She's in cute queen-clothes. Older Queen Gert is in her thought balloon and she's glaring at the people ruining her dream.

COUNCIL 1
... And initial here, here, here, here...
(cont)
...here, here and here.

GERT
...bask..my glory...

COUNCIL 2
Your Majesty, I'm afraid you have to wake up.

2. Council member gets close to Gert and whispers.

COUNCIL 2
Queen Gertrude, it's time to--

3. Same shot but gets eyes are open

GERT
YOU'LL NEVER TAKE ME ALIVE!

4. Gert stabbing council in the eye with the pen.

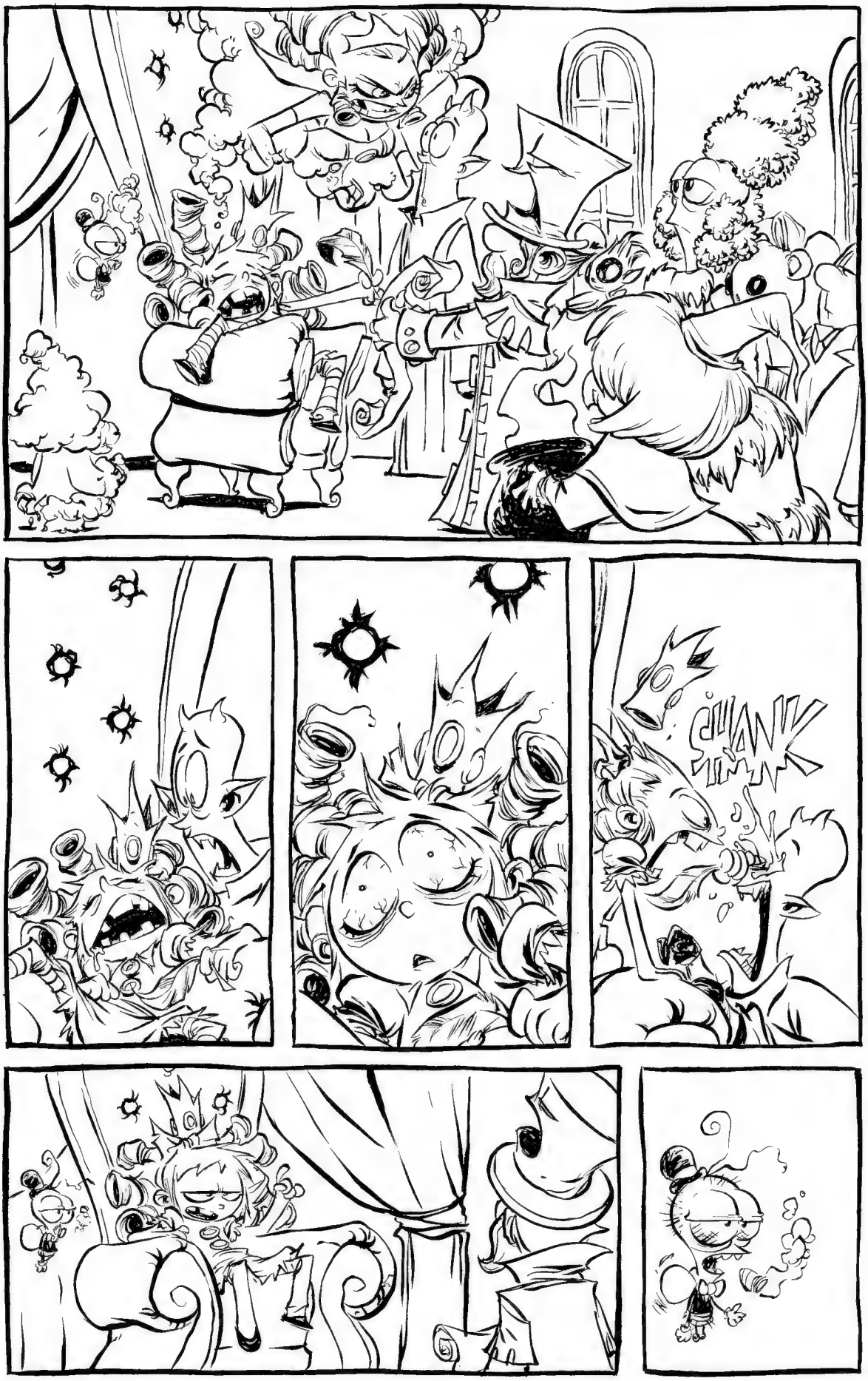
5. On Gert, looking sleepy. Council scared. Larry commenting.

GERT
Oops. My bad. It must be my K.A.T.W.M.T.S.D. acting up again.

COUNCIL 1
I don't understand.

6.

LARRY
Kill Anything That Wakes Me Traumatic Stress Disorder. (Bold first letters)


SHANK

PAGE 7

1. Someone is handing Gert a new pen.

GERT
What's this for?

COUNCIL 1
You still have papers to sign.

GERT
Really, how much is left?

2. A bunch of people holding folders and stacks of papers, scrolls, books, etc.

COUNCIL (OFF)
Just a few.

3. Gert signing again, and complaining. Sitting in the throne still.

GERT
Being Queen STUFFS! Is this all there is? Signing and approving things?
(cont)
Oh, wait. No. There's also the sitting.

4. Shot of the throne room.

GERT
Hours and hours of sitting in a throne room filled only with a... throne.

COUNCIL 1
This room is filled with the power of the office you hold, Queen of Fairyland.

5. On Gert.

GERT
Well, if that power is BOREDOM then you're right as FLUFF.
(cont)
Being an EVIL QUEEN has to be more fun than this. Let's say I take a little SLAYCATION to the other side.
(cont)
Larry, what's my life like then?

6. Larry holding an evil looking book.

LARRY
According to the Book of Dark Rulers, Gods, Monsters, Ghosts, Spirits, and Furry Things, as EVIL QUEEN you could...

PAGE 8/9

Montage of:

Stealing evil amulets and stones.

Big, burning eyeballs floating in the sky.

Leading armies to destroy everyone by land sea or air.

Ending with Gert sitting in an evil throne, bored.

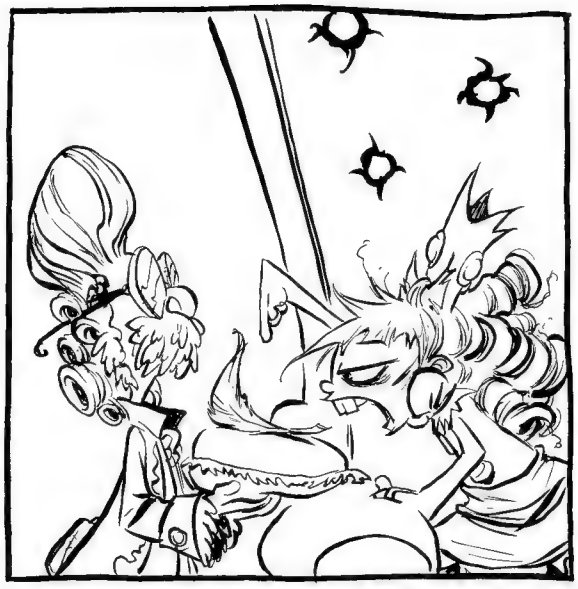
LARRY NAR
Enact your evil schemes to take over the all the lands...

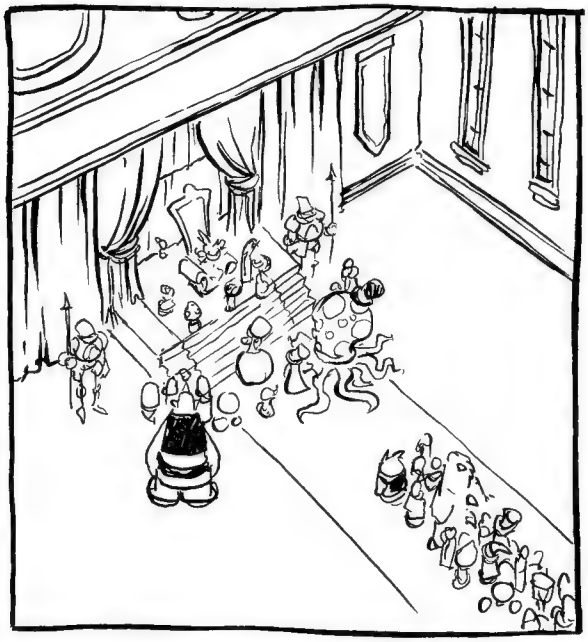
LARRY NAR
Pillage, plunder, and build your riches beyond imagination, burning out anyone who defies you...

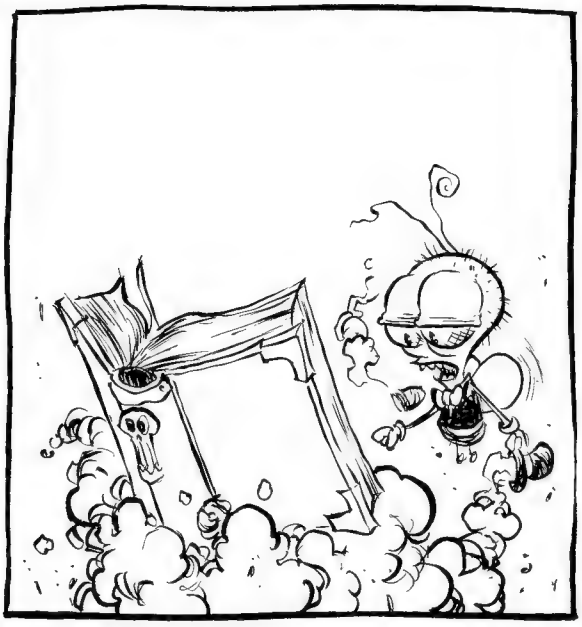
LARRY NAR
Become fiery evil eyeballs that watch the world burn as you reign down your evil...
(cont)
Though that option is very HOT.

LARRY NAR
...oh, wait. Sorry. Spoke too soon. As Evil Queen, you send OTHERS out to do all that stuff. You...

LARRY NAR
... sit. On a throne. In a empty throne room.







PAGE 10

1. Back on Gert and her council and Larry.

GERT
Oh great! So it's exactly the same amount of boring either way.
(cont)
I never thought I'd say this, but maybe I shouldn't have killed Cloudia.

2.

COUNCIL
You could always be a TOWER QUEEN.

3. On Gert in his face.

GERT
Do I strike you as someone that would SIT, locked up in a tower waiting for some MAN to save me?
(cont)
Or do you think I break myself out, find the one responsible for putting me there, and do things to their insides that would make DARKETH DEADEATH puke his soulless guts out?

COUNCIL
Uh... The second one?

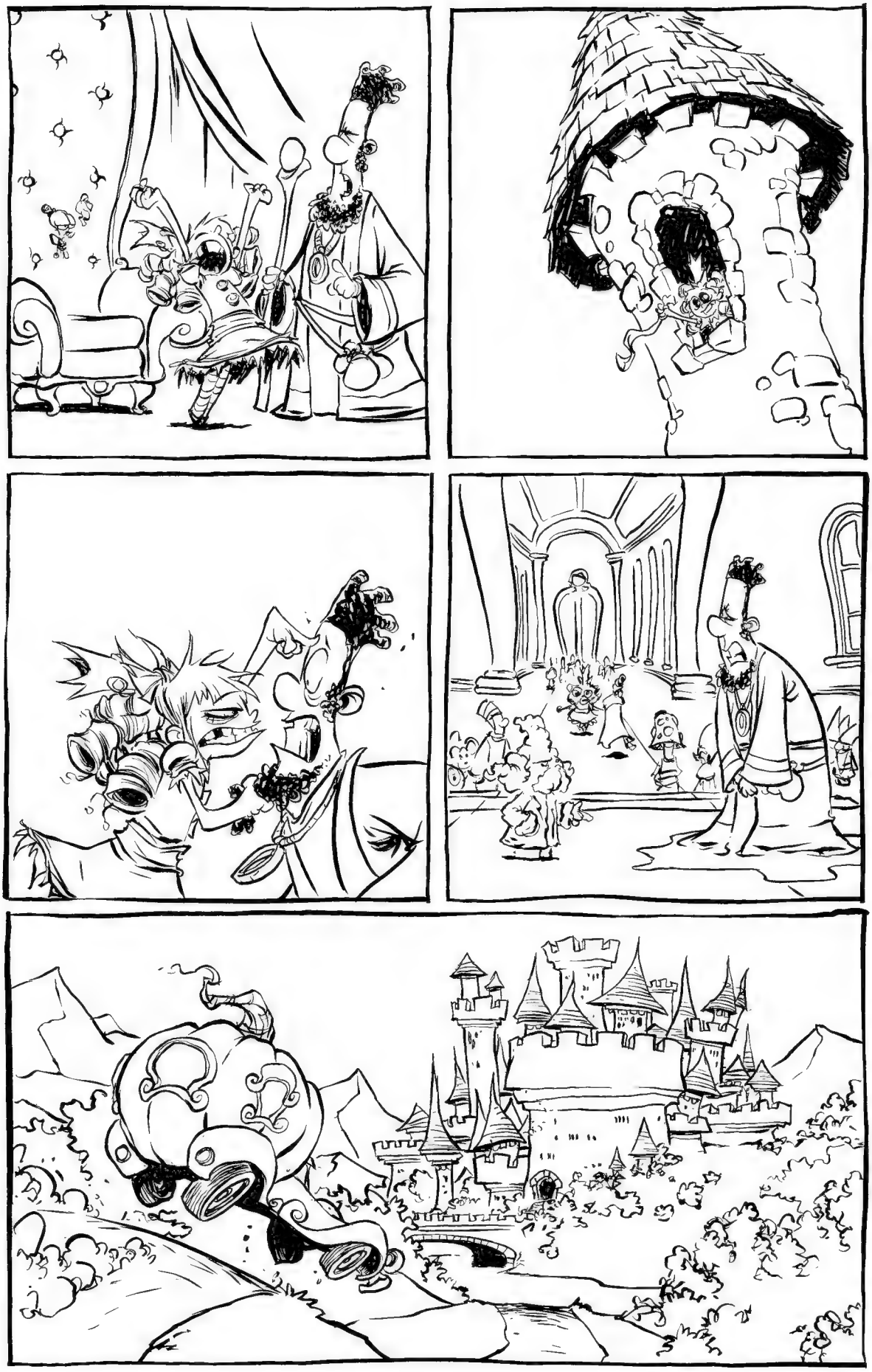
4. Similar but we see that the guy has pissed himself.

GERT
Correct.
(cont)
Larry, what's on the agenda today? I'm in the mood to QUEEN THE FLUFF out of something.

LARRY
We have the Lilly's Lunch now...

NIMBUS
You're cleaning that up yourself.
5. On a Castle school somewhere.

LARRY (V.O.)
...then we have a commencement speech to give at HARBINGERS SCHOOL OF WITCHES AND WARLOCKS.



PAGE 11

1. Gert is giving the speech and waving the ceremonial staff.

GERT
...and so with a wave of the ancient STAFF OF LOCKHORD and the SACRED WORDS OF PUGGLEWHIP, I send you out into the mystic lands.
(cont)
GOLLO KONK MAGIMIGEE...

2. On the crowd of graduates looking scared with magic washing over them.

STUDENT
Did she say KONK MAGIMIGEE?

STUDENT 2
I think so.

STUDENT
That's unfortunate.

3. On Gert wincing from the magic the staff is blasting.

GERT
Larry, maybe you should bring the car around.

LARRY
Good call.

4. Their limo driving off as the castle explodes in the BG.

FAR-FOOM

PAGE 12

1. Est. Fall in a hipster village with a hipster diner. Grill Cheese and Cereal. MILK GRILL.

CAPTION
Later in the year...

MAYOR
We are gathered here today to welcome THE MILK GRILL to our humble village.

2. On the Mayor

MAYOR
And as mayor of the Impsters of Orpland, it is my grand privilege to introduce her highness, QUEEN GERTRUDE.

3. On Gert Holding big scissors and standing near a ribbon and looking bored.

GERT
Thanks, Stashio. It's not everyday you get to cut ribbon at the grand opening of a GRILLED CHEESE and CEREAL BAR.
(cont small)
Probably because it's super gross.

4. Gert clamps down on the scissors.

GERT
By the power of the Queenhood, I hearby cut--

5. Gert shocked, blood splatter

GERT
Oops.

6. Gert looking at the Mayor she just cut in half on accident.

LARRY
I'll bring the car around.

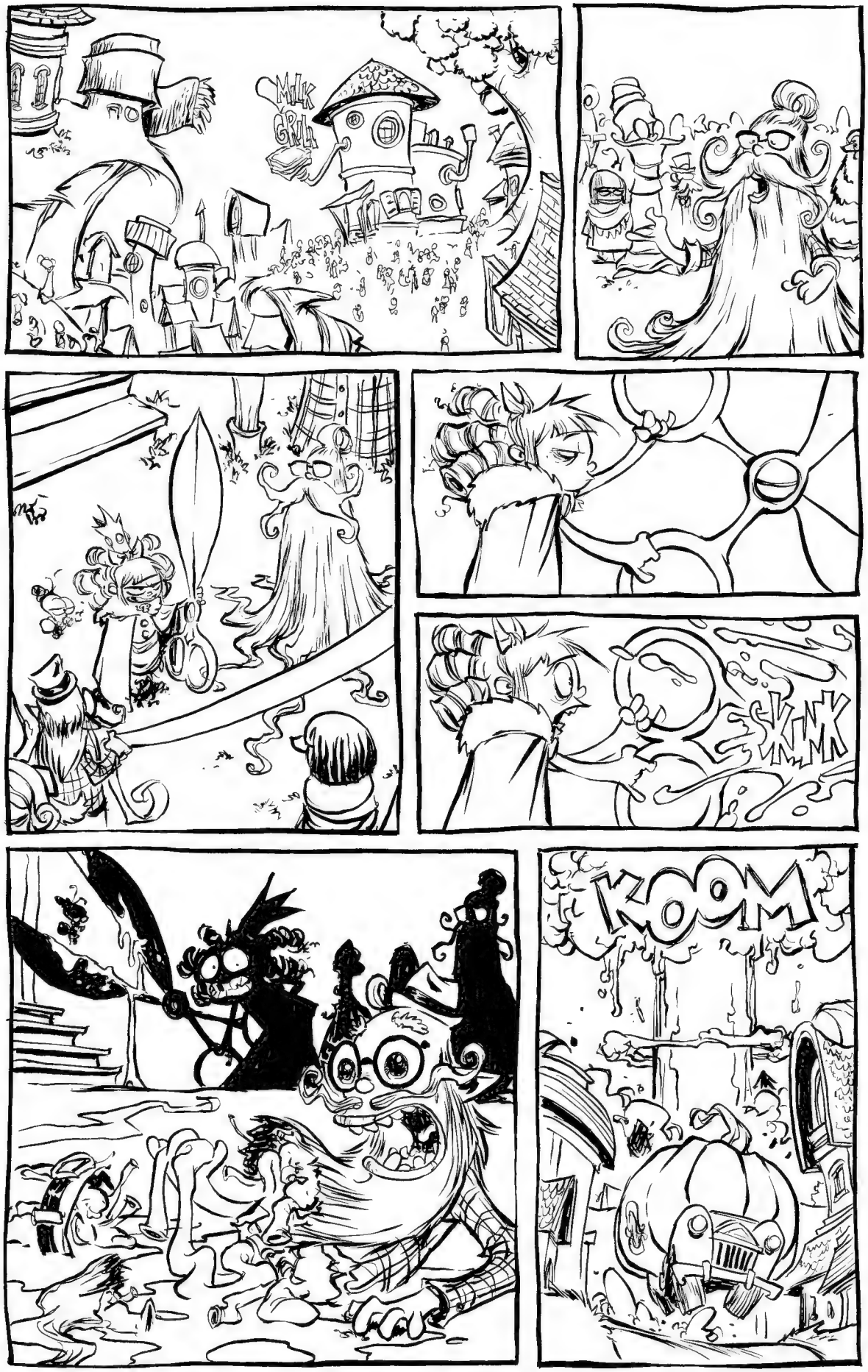
GERT
Good call.

7. They're driving off with the town in chaos, blowing up behind them.

LARRY
I'm not even sure why there was an explosion.

GERT
Makes for a cooler getaway.

LARRY
I can't disagree.


MILK
GRILL
SKNK
KOOM

PAGE 13

Various towns on land, air, and sea blowing up as Gert and Larry drive off.

CAPTIONS (1-6)

And it continued like this in every land, in every sea, in every person,
in every being whether big or small...

6. Stomping.

LARRY
I'll bring the car around.

GERT
Good call.

7.

GERT
It's been months. How long do you think it will take for me to get this Queen thing down?

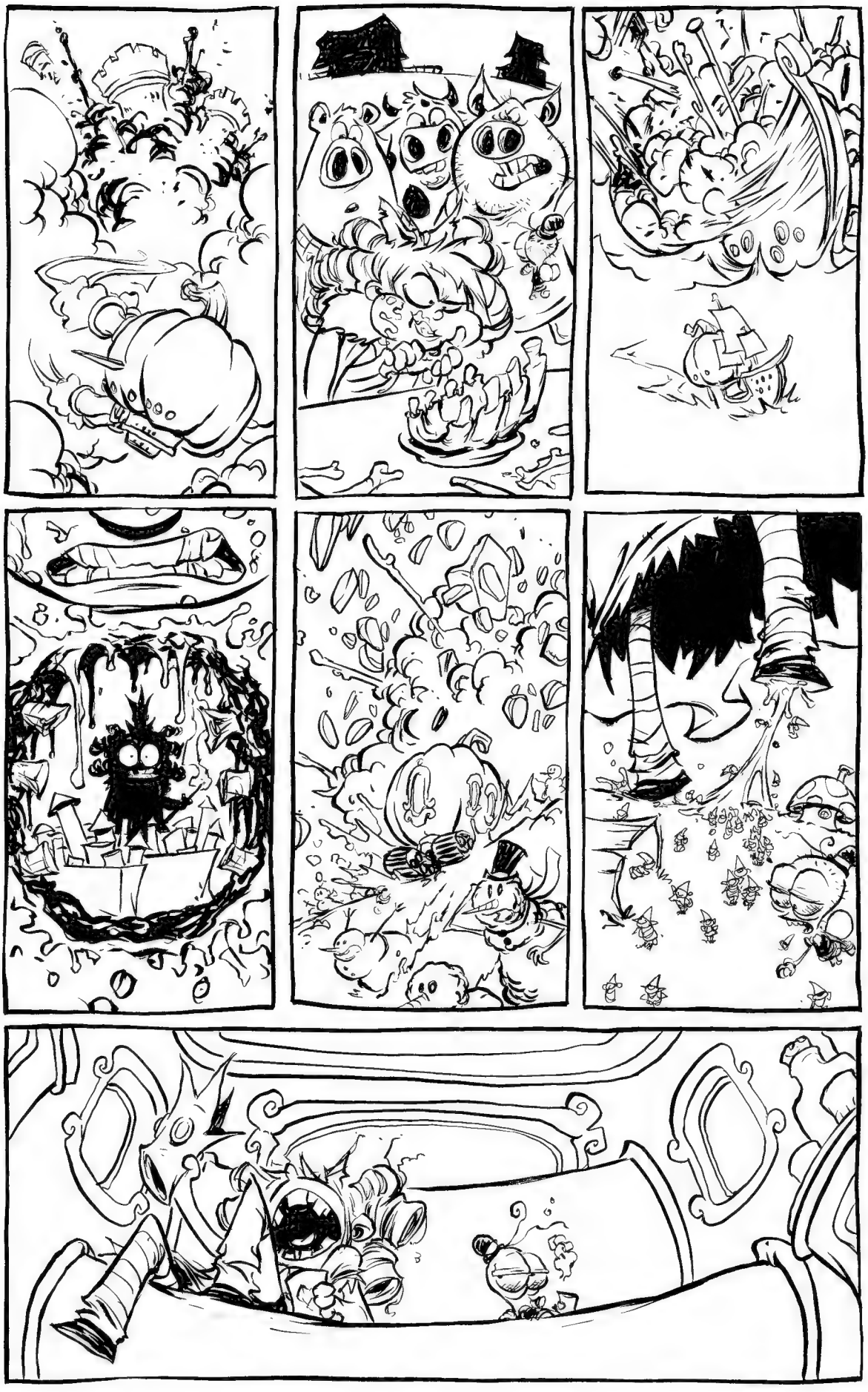
LARRY
Is this a trick question?

PAGE 14/15

Montage of crazy Game of Thrones stuff.

CAPTION
One year and...

CAPTION
... An assignation attempt by an orphaned warlock...
(cont)
...An attack from the Farm Lords for improper disposal of non-eatable beings, aka EATING THEM...
(cont)
...The building of an obnoxiously large CANDY wall to keep the Army of Kings making their way across the lands to steal the seat of power...
(cont)
... An invasion of Impsters seeking revenge for improper disposal of non-recyclable corpses...
(cont)
... And the thing with the Cousin who was also the mom but kind of the sister who stabbed the uncle, who cheated on his husband and ended up befriending a Kraken before becoming some sort of goopy thing and devouring half the Land of Tizzle...



PAGE 16

1. Cut to year later. The main city is a mess. Gloomy.

CAPTION
...and a whole lot of other convoluted messes later.

2. We see a delivery guy pushing a cart filled with glass bottles. The bottles talk.

BOTTLE 1
Man, this place has gone to SPELL since Gertrude has been Queen.

BOTTLE 2
Shhh. Watch what you say. I heard the Hat Maker got executed because he left a LYNT in that fly's bowler.

3. On bottles.

BOTTLE 1
Get out of here. I heard she's losing her mind. The pressure of the crown is too much.

BOTTLE 2
Either way, you won't catch me anywhere near that castle.

4. Delivery guy is at the castle. Larry signing for the package.

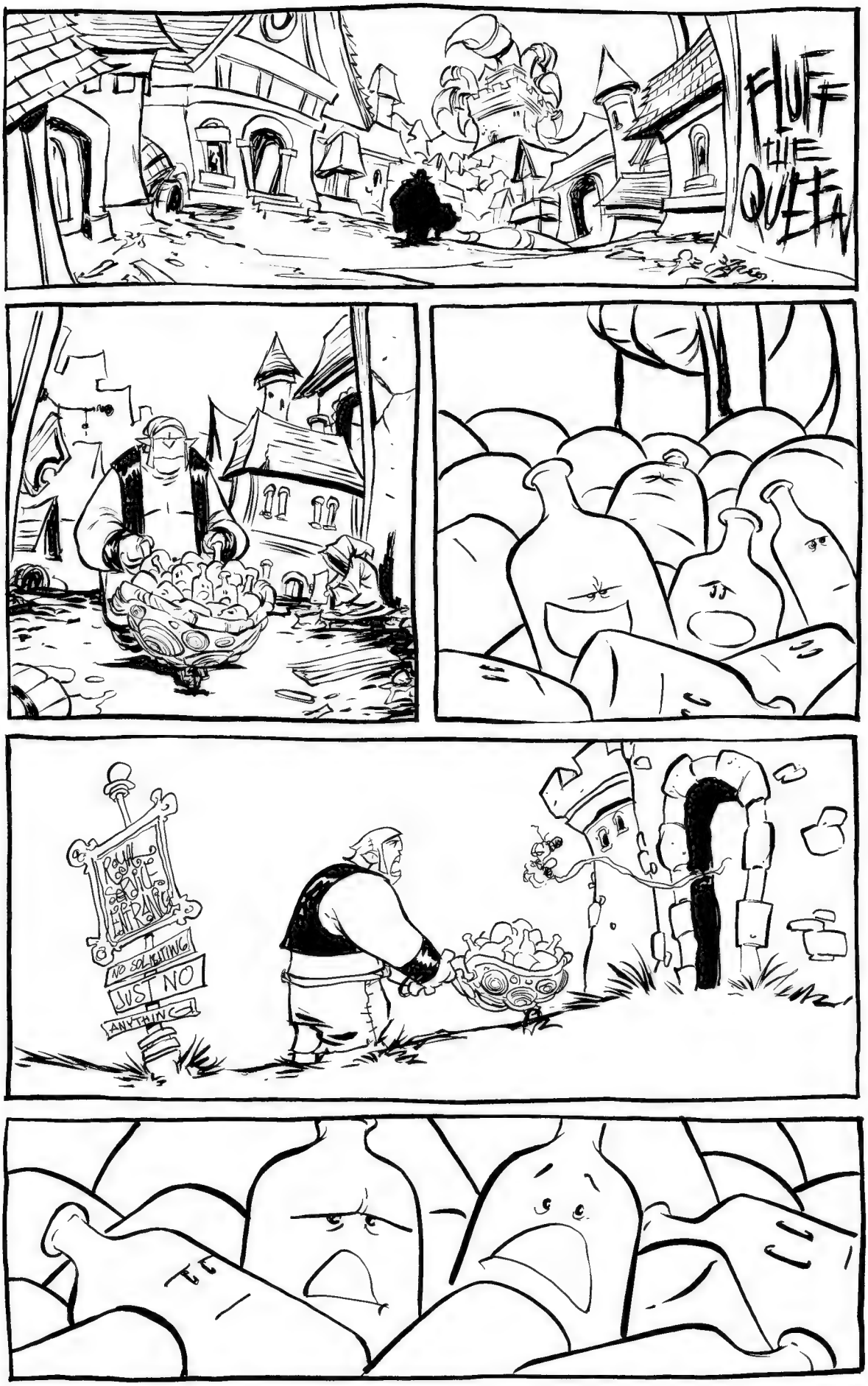
DELIVERY GUY
I've got the containers you ordered.
(cont)
Where do you want 'um?

LARRY
Inside, up the stairs until you reach the top of the tower. They're for the QUEEN, so be careful.

5. On the bottles.

BOTTLE 1
Well, things just took a turn.

BOTTLE 2
OH MY BOG! What could the Queen possible want with us??


FLUFF THE QUEEN
NO SOLICITING
JUST NO
ANYTHING

PAGE 17

1. Cut to Gert in a room looking a hot mess. Bottles of pee are everywhere. Knock on the door. Gert is freaking out.

SFX
Knock, Knock, Knock

GERT
Who the FLUFF is that? Probably the Syrup Sisters again!

2. On Gert

GERT
If that's who I think it is, take your sticky fingers somewhere else!

VOICE
It's me, Larry...

3. Larry

LARRY
It's getting pretty RIPE in there so I figured you could use a new stash of bottles.

GERT FROM ROOM
Good thinking.

4. Larry's inside now.

GERT
I ran out a few days ago.

LARRY
What have you been using?

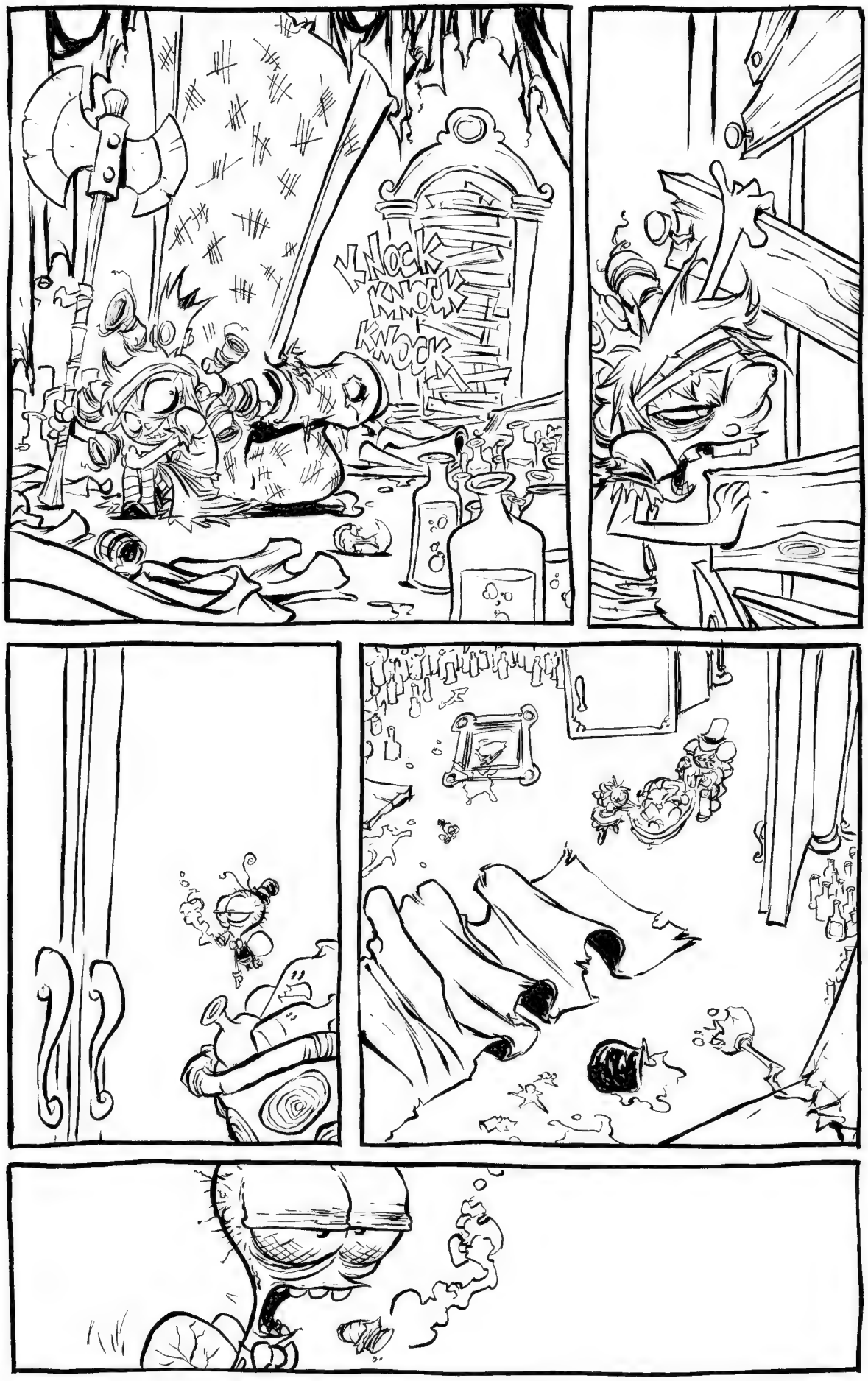
GERT
I can't remember.

LARRY
Well, while the location of your waste is intriguing, you need to know something...

GERT
What?

4. On Larry.

LARRY
WINTER IS COMING.


KNOCK
KNOCK
KNOCK

PAGE 18

1. On Gert, scared.

GERT
W-w-what did y-you say?

2. Close on moody Larry.

LARRY
Winter is COMING.

3. On Gert again.

GERT
Can you say that again, I don't think I get it.

LARRY
Winter. Is. Coming.

4. Gert jumps in Larry's face, freaking out.

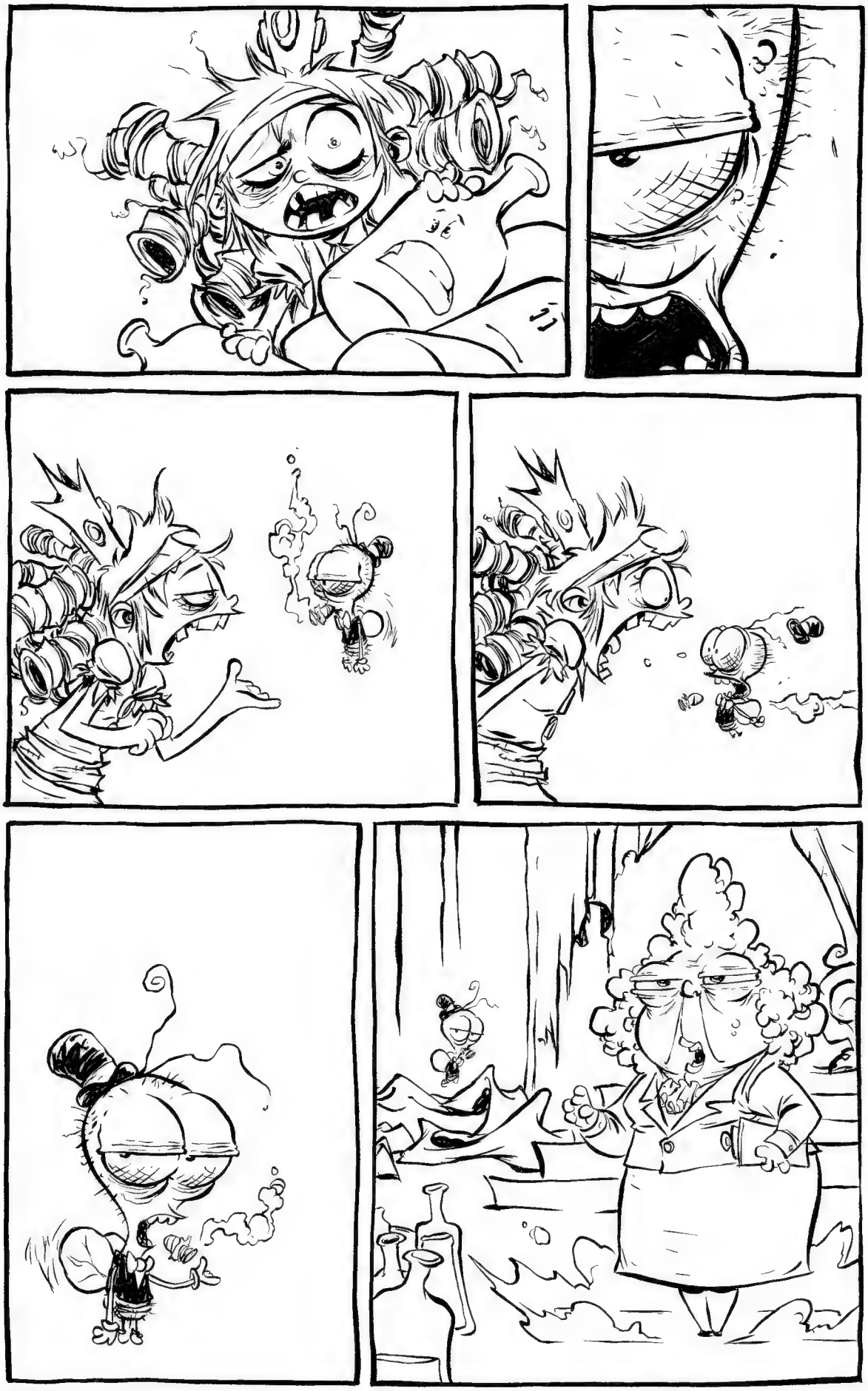
GERT
What does that even MEAN, man??
(cont)
Is a metaphor to describe the stark coldness that accompanies the impending doom that I've brought on these lands?

5. On Larry.

LARRY
No, but that's pretty deep stuff.
(cont)
I mean HARRIET WINTER, head of H.R. -- gave me a heads up. She's coming to talk to you.

6. Same panel but Harriet has now appeared from a puff of smoke.

HARRIET
Hello, Gertrude. Harriet Winter.



PAGE 19

1. On Harriet and Gert.

GERT
What do you want, HARRIET?

HARRIET
We've completed your one-year evaluation and wanted to have a chat about the results.

GERT
How'd I do?

HARRIET
How do YOU think you did?

2. On Gert looking insane.

GERT
Well, I figured out a way to ruin ages of treaties and truces,
(cont)
may have cause one, maybe two civilizations to go extinct,
(cont)
every ruler or warlord in Fairyland is trying to take the throne from me
(cont)
and I've barricaded myself in a room surrounded with bottles filled with what looks and smells like my own pee.

3. Gert holding up a bottle of pee.

GERT
Because it is, in fact, my own pee.

BOTTLE
Help me, please.

4. On Harriet checking a box on her clipboard.

HARRIET
Less than satisfactory.
(cont)
We're all in agreement then.

5. On Gert.

GERT
What are we agreeing on?

6. Harriet handing her a pink slip.

HARRIET
On your TERMINATION.
(cont)
Upon reviewing your performance of duties as Queen of Fairyland, the council has found you an utter failure and fears for the future of said land.

GERT
So...
(cont)
...you're going to have me killed? You all don't FLUFF around up here.

PAGE 20

1. On Harriet holding an unrolled paper.

HARRIET
While that would please many creatures near and far,
I'm afraid you misunderstood me. Gertrude, you are FIRED.

2. On Gert and Harriet.

GERT
Just like that? I'm not stuck here being queen anymore?

HARRIET
Just like that, dear. You are free to roam Fairyland as you like.
All we ask is that you tidy up a bit before you leave.

3. Big panel of Gert running from town, castle blowing up behind her!

LARRY
I don't think she meant, "BURN THE PLACE DOWN" when she said, "tidy up".

GERT
Some things can only be cleaned with FIRE!

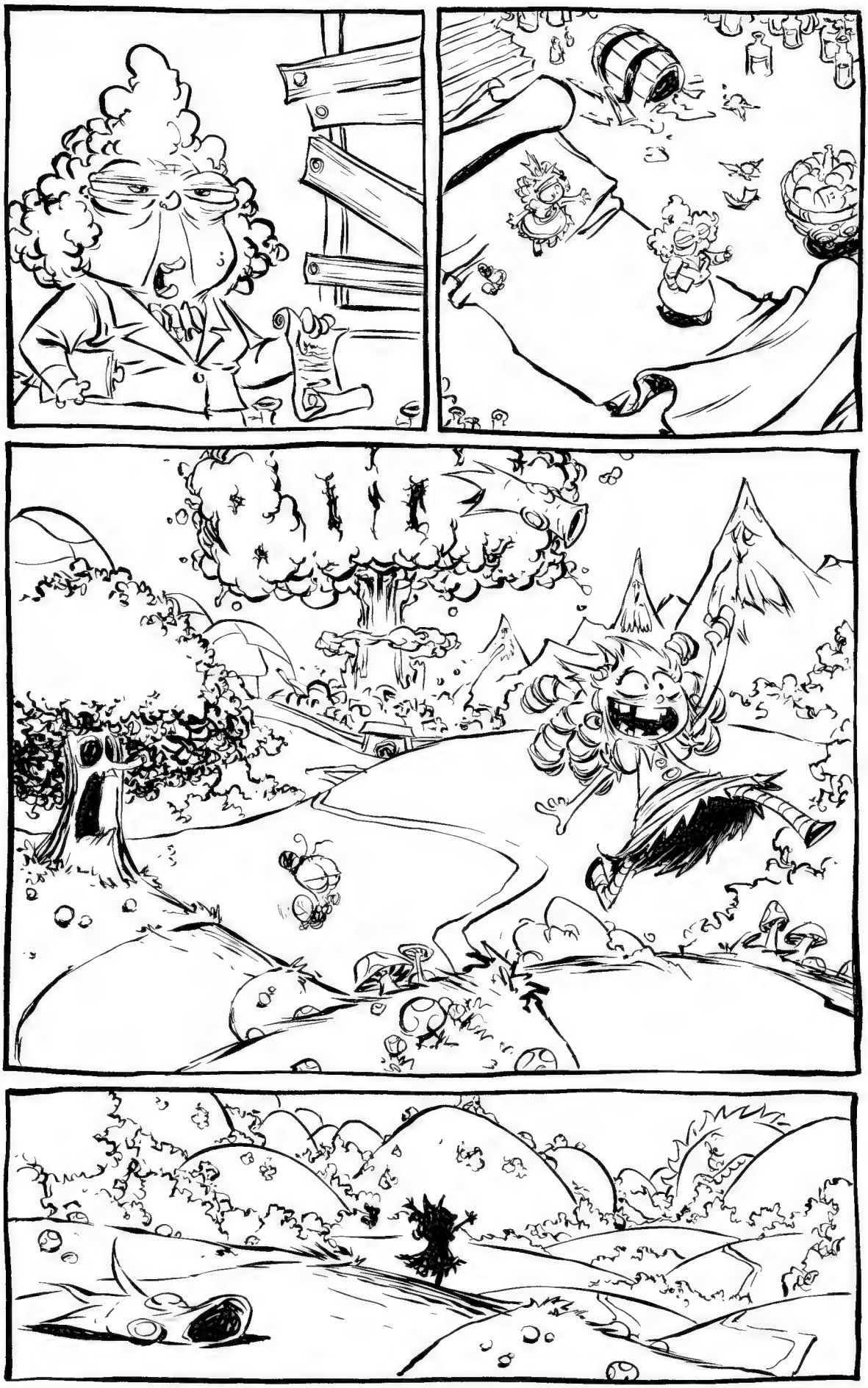
4. Them walking off in the distance.

LARRY
So, where to now?

GERT
Find my home. Where else?

LARRY
FLUFF my life.

GERT
FLUFF it, indeed.

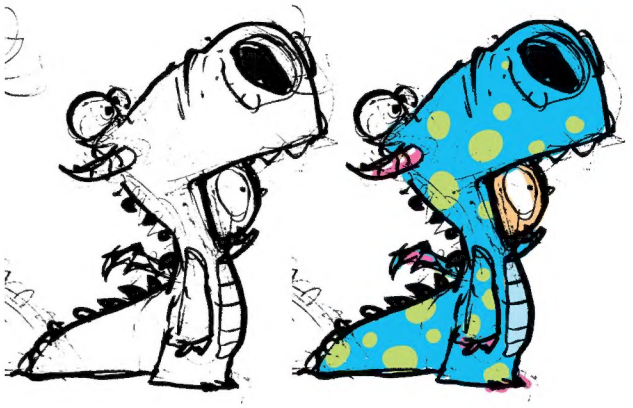


i hate FAIRYLAND

CONCEPT ART

#@$! YOUR RIDDLES, YOU FAT@$$OWL!
JUST GIVE ME THE SOCK!

I, THE WORM KING OF FUNGOSIA, WOULD LIKE TO...
YEAH, YEAH. JUST MAKE WITH THE FR@%NG SOCK.



THIS IS THE AXE OF DOOMITY DOOM AND IF YOU DON'T GET UP OUTTA MY FACE RIGHT NOW, I WILL FH@$ING CUT YOU!

SKOTTIE YOUNG

...is the New York Times Best Selling cartoonist behind Marvel's WIZARD OF OZ graphic novel adaptations, ROCKET RACCOON and GIANT-SIZE LITTLE MARVEL, as well as illustrating FORTUNATELY, THE MILK with some writer named, NEIL GAIMAN. And in case you have lived in a cave, Skottie has also produced enough Little Marvel variant covers to build a small ranch style home out of them. (Though they are not waterproof so living in said home is not advised.) He currently holds the record for most Eisner Awards won by anyone born in Fairybury, IL. Skottie lives in Central Illinois with his wife, two sons, and two dogs that drive him crazy. (The dogs, not the humans.)

JEAN-FRANCOIS BEAULIEU

...is the acclaimed colorist behind Marvel's WIZARD OF OZ Graphic Novel adaptations, ROCKET RACCOON, GIANT-SIZE LITTLE MARVEL, NEW WARRIORS, NEW X-MEN, and probably other books that Skottie Young didn't draw but since Skottie Young is writing this we'll keep it to mostly Skottie Young books. Okay, fine, INVINCIBLE. Happy? Jean and Skottie have been working together for over a decade. (Which sounds way more epic than saying ten years.) Jean is considered one of the industry's top colorists and also holds the record for most people who don't know how to pronounce his last name. He lives somewhere in the Canadian wilderness with his fiancé, three dogs, nine cats, and an unknown amount of dope robot model kits.

NATE PIEKOS

...is the founder of BLAMBOT.COM, a company with a much cooler name than any of us could probably come up with. Good job, Nate! He has created some of the industry's most popular fonts and has used them to letter comic books for Image Comics (HUCK), Marvel Comics (X-STATIX, X-MEN FIRST CLASS), DC Comics (NEW SUICIDE SQUAD), Dark Horse Comics (FIGHT CLUB 2, UMBRELLA ACADEMY) . . . and all the other companies that end with the word, "Comics". Nate has more guitars in his studio than any other letterer on the planet. (That was not fact checked, but I'm going with it.) He lives in Rhode Island with his wife and the previously mentioned guitars.

F A N T A S Y

ISBN: 978-1-5343-0380-5
RATED M / MATURE
IMAGECOMICS.COM

THE LUDOCRATS ~~(2015)~~ 2020

GILLEN. ROSSIGNOL. STOKELY & BONVILLAIN

The Aristocrats of the Ludicrous' determined mission to save all reality from the forces of boring. A modern classic, probably.

APRIL 1ST. NOT JOKING.

FOLLOW #IMAGECOMICS
VISIT IMAGECOMICS.COM

The Ludocrats is TM & © 2020 Kieron Gillen Limited, Big Robot Ltd., and Jeff Stokely.
Image Comics® and its logos are registered trademarks of Image Comics, Inc. All rights reserved.